

Dear CLO Alumni,

We would like to welcome you to our virtual tour through the Collegiate Living Organization, a place we proudly call home, like you before us.

Our story begins back in January at the rise of a new year and semester with a house of 77 members. The election brought ambitious members into the Officer and Board positions, determined to make the most of their duties.



Anushka Joseph won the position of Presidency, and though endearingly small in stature, she held quite a presence of authority and competence not only during her speech but also throughout the semester. She writes:

"Hi,

My name is Anushka I. Joseph, I am currently the President of The Collegiate Living Organization (CLO), Incorporated and I am proud of this organization. I entered UF as a transfer student from Broward Community College in South Florida and lived on campus for my first year, here at UF. Although the convenience of on campus was good I missed my friends back from my community college, I missed my family and many a times I felt lost or just a little bit lonely. After the first year on campus I was put on a lottery for on-campus housing; off campus could not even be an option for me, I did not have a car, did not have financial aid of any sort, my parents took care of tuition and housing, I did not have a job but I was living off savings from my previous job, which of course were depleting at a constant rate. I did not even know that a place such as CLO existed and I was hoping that somehow I would get the on-campus housing but I started getting worried and wondered, what would I do if I did not get the lottery?

GULP! YIKES! and I thought what would I do, then the little C.L.O. paper ad/poster came as a blessing in disguise with my church newsletter. To tell you the truth the first time I read about it and told my friends and family about it, we all thought that this CLO was too good to be true. I decided to check the place out and I loved it the first time around and did not even want to get the lottery for on-campus housing. I was excited about the future prospect of living at CLO. I filled in an application, got my recommendation letter, gave my interview and was anxiously waiting to hear from CLO. In the mean time I was denied on-campus housing and that made me all the more anxious. I was called in for a second interview later and finally got accepted to CLO. I was a happy camper and was excited to join the organization, although I did not realize that I'd be joining a big family here at CLO. Within the first two weeks at CLO I was able to meet many more people than I could back when I was in a dorm, and I also made many more friends, to be honest I made friends for the first time since I moved to Gainesville.

Ever since I joined CLO the Summer of 2007 I have been an active member, I became a voting member by the end of Summer and the subsequent semester I became a board member and since then have been able to dabble in and do a little bit of work for various positions, which included Secretary, Treasurer and President. I really wanted to help CLO and be a part of the Organization so I stood up whenever CLO needed someone to stand up and I was able to help CLO. I was never confident that I could hold a position that involved me being more or less on the top, making executive decisions, and being a leader of any organization, but with the support of my fellow board members and officers I gathered up my courage and decided to run for the President position. When I was elected, I realized that "Oh my God" I will be practically running this place and could not believe that I had enough confidence in me to do so and that the CLO residents had the faith in me to do so as well. So here I am the proud President of CLO and I am enjoying it to the fullest. We all have our good and bad days but now at least I have friends and family here at CLO who are always supportive of me and their support gets me through my bad times. I am proud to be the President of this place and I can not be thankful enough of the Board members and the officers and all the residents here at CLO who have made my experience at CLO memorable and unforgettable. I am looking forward to being an active member of the Alumni Foundation ^.^

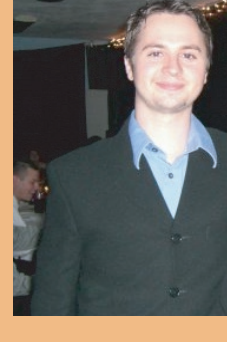
Thank you

Anushka I. Joseph

CLO President"

For the first time in CLO history, two Officer positions were elected jointly to two members, including the Vice President and Public Relations positions.

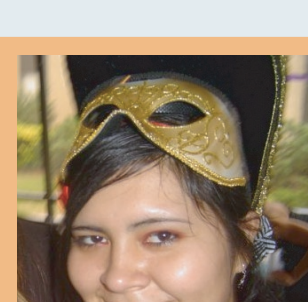
James Canter (left) and Arthur Rosales (right), or Jarthur, were elected to the VP position. Arthur attacked all the maintenance issues with sword in hand along with his sidekick, the humorous and dutiful James. Some of their accomplishments include getting a new AC unit for the North Building, coordinating the painting of the stairwells, enforcing fire safety, combining a work weekend with PR fundraising, conducting fire code checks, repairing bathroom vents, and a whole host of other maintenance activities. By the time they were finished with their duties, all of Lowes was apparently bought out.



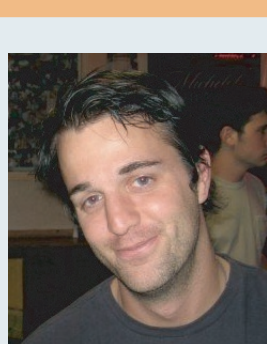
Bobbie Fritz (left) and Michelle Reed (right) combined efforts for PR, coining the phrase "2 for the price of 1" as a slogan during their election speech. This duo put on many low-cost socials gathered through polls from CLOnes such as a piñata-making party and a piñata bash, an indoor campout night, a foosball tournament, Valentine's and masquerade craft nights, a large-scale mural, spring fundraising days (bake sale, car wash, and yard sale), 1950's themed Informal, masquerade-themed Formal, an alumni bar-b-que, and a tie-dyeing event. Facebook was used as a successful means to manage activity photos, videos, and weekly updates. The two also took on an ambitious goal to redesign the CLO website with a fellow CLOne, Shyam Sundar, aspiring to consolidate the means with which information is passed on to CLOnes and to update the original website for recruitment. Recruitment accomplishments included getting an ad in the local newspaper, redesigning the ad alumni sends through the school system, utilizing facebook and craigslist, and flying around campus.

"CLO provided a personal economical alternative to dorm living. I've met so many wonderful people and consider myself lucky to have received this opportunity." -Bobbie Fritz

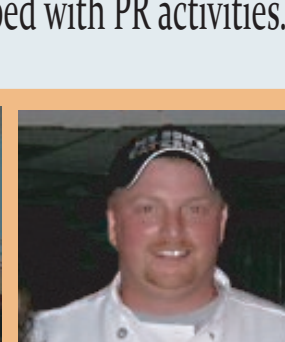
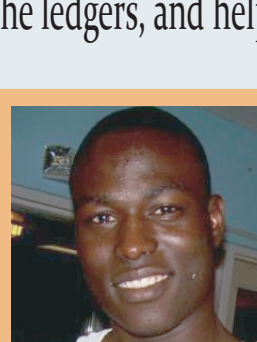
An assertive and fashionable Ambar Cano became CLO's new Secretary, taking on a successfully renovated position with many prior responsibilities dissolved amongst the other Officers. Not only did she take the mail seriously, she also was efficient providing the meeting minutes, gathering supplies to keep the office running, and completing other odds and ends including helping PR with recruitment.



The position of Treasurer was granted to Jean-Paul Baldwin, a native to South Africa with a knack for statistics. He diligently spent hours studying the US's tax system and Quick-books in order to be an effective leader to smooth CLO's bumpy road of money matters. Beyond his promptly completed bill collection duties, he helped resolve some past money issues, completed the 990's, continued fixing the ledgers, and helped with PR activities.

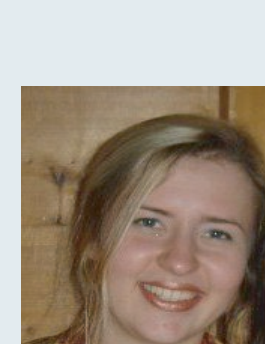
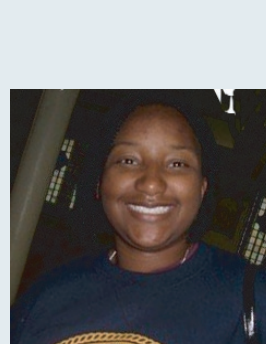
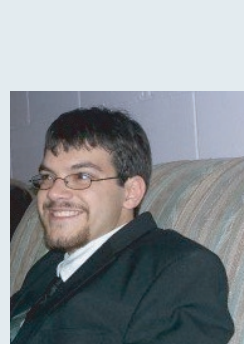
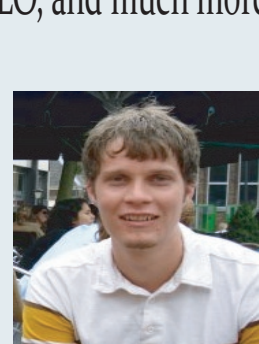
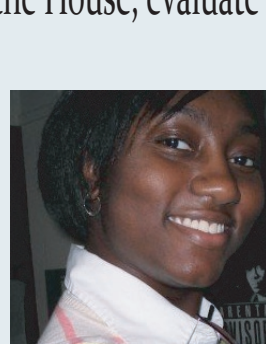


Michou Phenelus (left), the happy-go-lucky and boisterous Kitchen Manager, continued his responsibilities of the kitchen alongside our cook, Mike Hallermeier (right), who also became our Assistant Administrator, a liaison between the alumni and current Officers and Board of CLO. Michou kept the kitchen clean, supplied, and safe along with the purchase of a new soda machine. He also went through great efforts to find new chairs for the kitchen. Mike's accomplishments are many, as he saved CLO thousands in food, helped with PR activities such as Formal and birthday celebrations, provided for special food needs, invited suggestions, and took on communication duties as CLO's first Administrative Assistant.



"CLO and the residents here are my home and family. I hope to never grow apart from either one. Maybe sometimes in the distant future, I'll be coming back for an Alumni BBQ and reminisce about my days at CLO." -Michou

Finally, the following team of Board of Directors stood as a formidable force of reason and intellect for the betterment of CLO (from left to right): Aisha Umar, John Iacona, Robbie McDonald, Tracey Tolbert, Laura Gutane, and Brian Timmons (not pictured). Together this great bunch of altruistic CLOnes made this semester one to remember with their endurance to attend weekly meetings, conduct interviews, represent the voice of the House, evaluate CLO, and much more.



"CLO definitely provides a friendly community with an assortment of different types of people. Once I became a part of the House, I felt that I was immediately welcomed." -Aisha Umar

As a long time resident, I can honestly say that CLO just gets better and better each year!" -Brian Timmons

All of us at CLO would like to thank you, the alumni, for being there for us with fundraising, recruitment, motivation, and guidance to maintain this special facility for years to come.

We'll be awaiting your return at our next alumni get-together!

Sincerely,
Spring residents of CLO