

A 'vision' of things to come

Sorensen unveils plans for Innovista's far-reaching effects on USC, city

Gina Vasselli
STAFF WRITER

The city of Columbia, USC and Sasaki Associates released a plan for a massive overhaul of an area of the city marked by Gervais Street, Assembly Street, Catawba Street and the Congaree River at the South Carolina State Museum Thursday.

USC President Andrew Sorensen warned audience members of the scale of what they were to see.

"Buckle up your seat belts ladies and gentlemen, what you are about to see hits the mark," Sorensen said.

The plan was described by many

at the public presentation as the beginning of a renaissance for Columbia.

"What we're doing is presenting a vision; all the details are not worked out," said Richard Galehouse of Sasaki Associates. "We're feeling quite privileged to be a part of this."

The plan is to take the underdeveloped areas near the Congaree River and transform them into viable real estate and public areas.

The presentation by Sasaki Associates discussed six main elements of the plan.

The first was the innovation district that USC has already

started work on. The plan also calls for creating a pedestrian area, called Foundation Square at the corner of Lincoln and Greene streets.

The second element was the creation of a new street, running north to south along the edge of the proposed park.

The third element proposed extending Senate, Devine and Wheat streets all the way out to the Congaree to bring more attention to the river, which is what the city was founded upon.

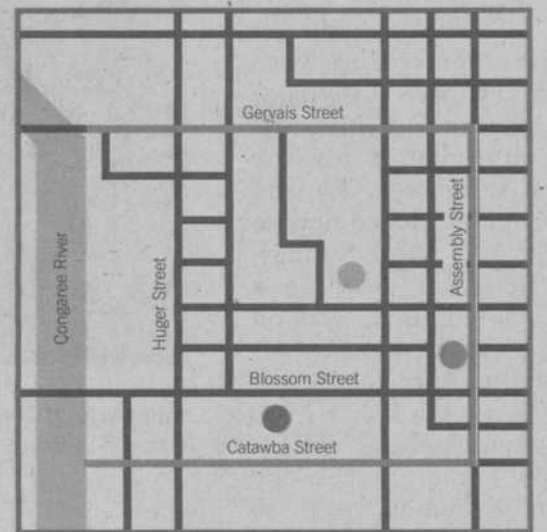
The fourth element was to relocate the power lines found

VISION • 4

Mapped Out

With Innovista looming large, USC's future affects Columbia's look and feel

- Indicates area to be developed
- Colonial Center
- Carolina Coliseum
- Greek Village



CHAS MCCARTHY / THE GAMECOCK

Board of Trustees talks development

Discussions include campus renovations, repair

Jackie Alexander • Aimee Murray
THE GAMECOCK

USC's Board of Trustees met Thursday at 1600 Hampton St. to discuss matters ranging from Innovista and Coke to nursing and renovations.

Chief Financial Officer Richard Kelly met with the buildings and grounds committee to talk about money from the Three Year Capital Plan that was agreed upon in 2003 equaling about \$30 million.

The money that was accumulated from a \$2.5 million annual student fee increase will now be used to make renovations to several buildings on campus.

Projects being funded by the Three Year Capital Plan include the recreational fields development, Gambrell Hall repairs, 1321 Pendleton St. acquisition and other parts of campus in need of repair and renovation.

Kelly said six buildings will receive the money.

The development committee brought up concerns about the

usage of 1321 Pendleton St. without a lease or contract. The front half of the building is being used without a lease.

Both committees were concerned that there would be injuries since the building is one on the list of those to be repaired.

The executive committee discussed contracts valued at more than \$250,000.

The first motion concerned technology services throughout the entire USC system as the board approved a move to Trend Micro software.

The new anti-virus and spyware program, which is to replace MacAfee, will provide access for up to 450,000 computers and 80,000 e-mail accounts for faculty staff and students.

A representative from the office of information technology said the university decided to change to Trend Micro because they weren't satisfied with the support from MacAfee and that the new anti-virus system would be more compatible with the new campus e-mail system.

BOARD • 2



Nick Esaves / THE GAMECOCK

School of Journalism and Mass Communications director Shirley Staples Carter, right, and Dean Charles Bierbauer present the award for Outstanding Student in Advertising to Alexis Bass.

USC honors students at awards ceremony

Drew Brooks
THE GAMECOCK

The family, friends and peers of students and faculty were on hand Thursday as USC held its Awards Day on the Horseshoe.

More than 350 awards were announced in more than 120 categories ranging from scholarships and fellowships to outstanding senior awards.

Marissa Vawter, president of Omicron Delta Kappa and a fourth-year international

studies student, welcomed the recipients and their guests.

The ceremony lasted about an hour and a half with Elizabeth Martin, a third-year advertising student, and Austin Bersinger, a third-year economics student, as mistress and master of ceremonies, announced the presenters and award-winners.

Martin was a recipient of two awards: the Student Body President's Scholarship and

AWARDS • 4

SOON-TO-BE GRADS GET ONE LAST TAILGATING EXPERIENCE

Joshua Rabon
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Members of the class of 2006 had their last tailgating opportunity as Carolina students at Williams-Brice Stadium on Thursday.

Jackie Carson, graduate assistant for student programs, said the event, sponsored by the Carolina Alumni Association, was held at the stadium to add to the theme.

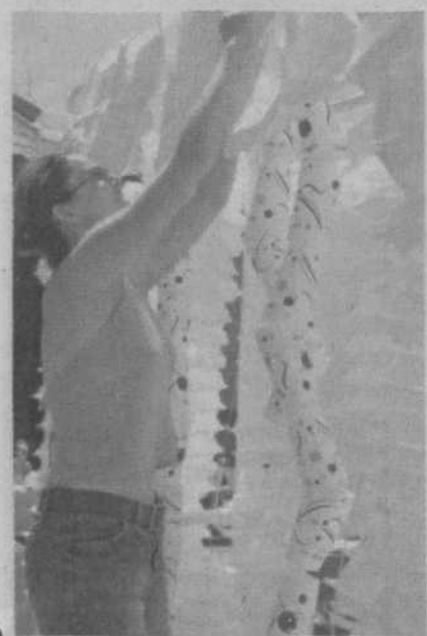
"Our theme is last tailgate," Carson said. "It's an annual event, but this is the first year we have done it at the stadium. We have a senior board that suggested having a Gamecock/Carolina theme, and this seemed like the best place."

Graduating engineering student Peng Young said he came to celebrate his last experience at the university.

"I think it is good to come out, because this is my last event at USC," he said.

The tailgate also had a Shealy's barbecue dinner and music by Men of Distinction, which graduating psychology student Alisha Epps said brought her to the event.

TAILGATE • 2



Nick Esaves / THE GAMECOCK

Fourth-year student Mary Ellen Kustin displays Styrofoam products Thursday.

SAGE increases Earth Day awareness with festival

Ashleigh Orthen
THE GAMECOCK

Students gathered in front of the Russell House on Greene Street on Thursday to enjoy a festival of food, fun and freebies.

Earth Day Festival 2006 kicked off at 10 a.m. and lasted until 2 p.m.

Students Allied for a Greener Earth (SAGE) sponsored the event and figured it would be a good way to promote environment education while celebrating Earth Day.

Barry Blicht, a first-year print journalism student and member of SAGE, said the environment education aspect of the festival was the most pertinent part of

celebrating Mother Earth.

"I think that just getting people aware of what is out there is important, but raising awareness about the different issues is even more important," Blicht said.

SAGE's booth gave students the opportunity to learn about organic foods and even taste organic deserts.

"Organic foods contain all of the ingredients that do not have pesticides in them," Blicht said. "Organic food is definitely healthier than other foods because of the pesticide issue."

One of the many organizations attending the festival was the Sierra Club, whose mission is to "explore, enjoy and protect the

planet." The club offers solutions for a "new century" and it all starts with pushing for "clean car" laws in more states, according to a Sierra Club pamphlet.

"Eleven U.S. states and Canada have enacted measures to require the auto industry to produce cleaner cars and trucks that release less smog and global warming pollution than federal standards mandate," according to the pamphlet. "Adding more states will force the auto industry to make all cars sold in the U.S. and Canada meet these standards."

Patti Carson, a member of the Sierra Club's membership committee for the South Carolina chapter, said the club is the

country's oldest environmental and non-profitable organization. Carson said it was a last minute decision to join the festival, but was hoping to obtain more members throughout the afternoon.

"Since I am on the membership committee, getting new memberships is my main goal," Carson said.

Starshine Southern, a second-year anthropology and art history student, said he supported the festival and enjoyed the Sierra Club booth.

"I really support everything that is here today, like the Sierra Club," Southern said. "I also really liked

EARTH • 4

VIEWPOINTS

Aaron Brazier talks about the Ryan Holt video; Tim McManus laughs hysterically at Karl Rove and American politics today.

THE MIX

Royal flush
A look at campus restrooms: the good, the bad, the ugly, and how students use them, abuse them and live in them.

SPORTS

Odom opines
USC men's basketball coach Dave Odom talks about the past and future of the team.



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