

The Gamecock

Serving USC since 1908

WEATHER

TODAY
 Cloudy
 High 58
 Low 35
TUESDAY
 Cloudy
 High 61
 Low 34

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University of South Carolina

Monday, February 24, 1997

Franklin successful in '96-'97 platform goals

KAREN LAYNE News Editor

This time last year, newly elected Student Government President Jamel Franklin was celebrating a different victory — his election as vice president. He spent his 1996-97 term working to fulfill his vice-presidential campaign promises, and he'll carry very little unfinished business into the president's office.

Franklin's first vice-presidential platform objective, as printed in the Feb. 8, 1996, edition of *The Gamecock*, was to personally lobby state legislators for funding for student programs and a voting student member on the Board of Trustees.

To meet this objective, Franklin and 1996-97 President Patrick Wright spoke with several legislators on the Senate Finance Committee, where most major

work on the budget is done, and encouraged them to give attention to funding for higher education, Franklin said.

Franklin and Wright were guaranteed attention to higher education from the legislators, and this year did bring an increase in higher-education funding, he said.

The battle for a voting student member on the Board of Trustees was close, and student Brian Comer was almost awarded the position, Franklin said. He said he will continue the fight as part of his lobbying efforts by asking legislators to sponsor a bill to reserve a seat for the SG president on the board.

Franklin's second platform objectives involved improving campus safety to decrease "threat of crime and unsafe feelings many students have about this university."

Additional call boxes were installed in the Benson area and at the School of Music, Franklin said. Lighting in the Blossom Street Garage also was improved, among other renovations.

"We just spoke with the Law Enforcement and Safety Division, and they assured us they have units working in the garages, working undercover in terms of monitoring garage safety," Franklin said. "We made sure that was definitely taken care of."

Franklin's first opportunity to meet his dining reform objective will be this summer, when the current dining contract is up for renewal, he said. "What we're trying to do is get less restrictive eating



FRANKLIN

times and get dining companies like Chick-Fil-A, Taco Bell and Wendy's. Those are the three big ones. Also, (we want to) get more competition between dining facilities to help drive prices down and improve dining for students."

A campus-wide Race Relations Forum, possibly Franklin's most visible effort, fulfilled his fourth objective. A student committee on race relations will be created to plan more programs, he said.

The fifth objective involved inter-campus relations, where Franklin planned last year to "promote unity and cooperation with other Southeastern college and universities and better organize state and national lobbying

efforts for higher education."

Several S.C. Students' Association meetings, attended by representatives from state colleges and universities, have been held, Franklin said. The organization is improving and operating much better than it had been, he said.

Franklin's academic objectives included "thorough and consistent departmental academic advisement standards and a course repeat or academic forgiveness policy at USC, as so many other universities have."

To meet his advisement objective, SG conducted a survey of colleges' advisement processes, Franklin said.

The results will be taken to deans to encourage a "more personable advisement where students feel less like a social security number," he said.

Academic forgiveness is an objective Franklin will carry into his presidential

term. This summer, SG hopes to present information collected on 50 colleges and universities, most of which allow some form of forgiveness, to the Board of Trustees. They will request USC introduce a program allowing for a limited number of courses to be repeated with grade replacement, Franklin said.

"It's definitely something Student Government needs to continue working on," he said.

Franklin said he considers the safety improvements, lobbying for higher education and the Race Relations Forum his greatest platform achievements, and he has hopes for more success.

"We were able to address every one of them, but I would like to concentrate more on the voting student," Franklin said. "I'd really like to hit that harder."

And now as SG president, Franklin will have that chance.

State commission pushes for fire safety upgrades

ROSALIND HARVEY Staff Writer

The Commission of Higher Education is pushing for updated fire systems in resident halls across the nation.

A fire in a fraternity house at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill two years ago killed five students and has raised questions of fire safety in college dormitories.

The University of South Carolina is one of the many universities working on an extensive report for the commission on fire safety.

According to Dave Castine, USC's fire safety officer, USC has no dorms fully equipped with sprinkler systems. However, the Department of Housing is working on a budget and proposal for full sprinkler systems to be installed in all residence halls.

Improvements are currently being made to make USC dormitories safer.

"Very few schools have gone to the extent that we have in order to insure fire safety for our students," Castine said.

In 1993, housing officials began installing new smoke detection systems. This project is expected to last for another two years with a total cost of around \$4 million, Castine said.

Patterson Hall is the next resident hall that will have this new system installed. Rutledge, Woodrow, Bates House, Bates West, Columbia Hall and Sims are already equipped with this new smoke detection system, Castine said.

He also said that the Bates House and Bates West systems cost a total of \$300,000.

"These new systems are state of the art," Castine said. "Those students who live in the dorms equipped with the smoke detector systems will testify to the sensitivity of these systems."

According to Castine, once a single smoke detector goes off, there is a 60-second time period before the USC police is notified and the entire dorm alarm system goes off.

In case of a false alarm, students have the chance to "fan" the smoke away from the detector during this 60-second time period. Once the USCPD is notified, the fire department is called.

If a main fire alarm is pulled, then the alarms all over the

Student loses all belongings in apartment fire

KAREN LAYNE News Editor

Mildred Farrington said she still feels like she's in someone else's nightmare, a dream she and her neighbors just can't wake up from.

Her home at Cedarwood Apartments was one of 10 that sustained fire and water damage early Tuesday when a man fell asleep with a lighted cigarette.

"It's been pretty upside down," Farrington said. "But I'm not shaking anymore."

Thanks to neighbors' warnings, no one was injured in the fire, she said. But with midterms approaching, Farrington, a graduate student in the School of Public Health, wasn't pleased to see her books and notes floating in the water firefighters used to contain it.

To help her pick up the pieces, the School of Public Health, the Division of Student Affairs and the South Carolina Bookstore have joined forces, offering Farrington books, student housing and a lot of support.

"I've been really impressed," said Eric Ford, president of the School of Public Health's graduate association. "The Carolina community has really come through. The university was outstanding."

FIRE page 2

dorms go off without the 60-second delay and the USCPD is immediately notified. They call the Columbia Fire Department, Castine said.

He also said that in 1989 the Columbia Fire Department quit their central reporting system. Therefore, the USC police acts as a fire reporting service for USC.

"There is a \$100 charge for nuisance (false) alarms," Castine said. "The Risk Management and Fire Safety Department pays for these fines."

He said that USC has been fined \$3,000 in false alarm fines in the past year.

These systems are able to aid firefighters in locating the fire. The main panel is able to tell firefighters exactly which smoke detector set the system off. They also are able to tell if anyone has tampered with the detectors in their rooms or if the detector is

dirty, Castine said.

"We have two or three fire drills each semester to ensure the safety of the residents," Castine said. "We have had some close calls in the past year, and drills and these state-of-the-art systems make a difference."

Thursday night many students living on the Horseshoe experienced one of these bi-semester drills.

Senior Woodrow resident Sonia Darley had mixed reactions to the 7 p.m. drill at her dorm.

"Fire safety is good, but the alarms always go off at the wrong time," she said.

Senior Ernest Sessoms agreed.

"Fire drills and fire safety is very important," Sessoms said. "We have a lot of old buildings on campus and we need to consider the dangers."



BRANDI MARTIN Staff Writer

The Multiple Sclerosis Association of America is sponsoring an \$8,000 essay project. The project is called Learn MS '97.

College (and high school) freshmen, sophomores and juniors can participate in the essay contest.

The essay covers multiple sclerosis, its effects on the family and society and how life for the physically challenged can be improved.

Contestants must obtain at least one sponsor pledging \$7.50. Applicants can win various prizes by sponsorship as well.

The essay must include an official registration form, \$7.50 sponsorship and must be postmarked by April 11.

The essay must contain 500 to 1000 words, a title page, be accompanied by an official registration form and the sponsorship.

Questions that should be answered in the essay include: What is MS? How does it impact a person and family? How can society improve physically challenged lives?

The scholarship winner will receive \$8,000 to cover tuition and book bills.

Three sponsorship winners will be rewarded — Grand Prize (minimum of \$500 received) winning a color Zenith TV with remote, second prize (\$100+ received) winning a project Learn MS sweatshirt, and third prize (\$50+ received) winning a project Learn MS T-shirt.

Submitting applicants should send their essay to PROJECT: Learn MS '97, 706 Haddonfield Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002.

For more information contact Public Relations Director Peter Damiri at (609) 488-4500. For an official registration form, call MSAA at 1-800-LEARN MS.

Gilbert, Gubar to visit USC

STAFF REPORTS

Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar, America's leading experts on 19th- and 20th-century women's literature, will talk to USC freshmen and the public Monday, Feb. 24, about the films that depict 19th-century fictional women such as "Jane Eyre."

The 3:30 p.m. talk, titled "Plain Jane at the Movies," is free and open to the public and will take place in USC's Koger Center. It is part of USC's First Year Reading Experience, for which 2,000 freshman students are reading "Jane Eyre" and seeing several film adaptations of the book in February.

Gilbert, a poet and English professor at the University of California-Davis, and Gubar, a distinguished professor of English at Indiana University, have collaborated on literary works for 20 years. Most notably, they edited "The Norton Anthology of Literature by Women" (1985) and wrote "The Madwoman in the Attic: The Woman Writer and the 19th-Century Literary

Imagination" (1979), an in-depth look at how 19th-century women writers defied personal and artistic constraints of the era. It was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize.

Gilbert and Gubar also will give 3:30 p.m. lectures Tuesday, Feb. 25, and Wednesday, Feb. 26.

Sandra Gilbert will read some of her selected poems Wednesday in Currell Auditorium.

Recognized in scholarly circles as the nation's leading feminist critics, Gilbert and Gubar, through their research and writing, have been instrumental in adding women's literature to the accepted canon of great literature.

The pair met in 1973 after taking teaching posts at Indiana University. Recognizing that women's literature or feminist criticism was absent from the curriculum, they developed the course "The Madwoman in the Attic."

For more information about Gilbert and Gubar's talk and lectures, call USC's First at 777-7120.

THE 1997-98 STUDENT BODY TREASURER IS...

NIKKI THORPE The Gamecock

Sophomore Susanne Newman defeated Terrance Levine in the race for the next Student Body Treasurer. Newman took 1,403 of the votes. The results were announced around 11 p.m. Thursday. Run-off elections will be held for the office of vice president Thursday. The candidates are Kim Dickerson and Michael Phillips.

GAMECOCK INSIDE

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION PAGE 4

The **Nickelodeon Theater**, which is just two blocks from campus, offers Columbia's moviegoers an opportunity to see films not featured in larger theaters from independent films to alternative cinema. Check out **ETC.** for all the details.



BATTER UP PAGE 8

The **Gamecock baseball squad** took two out of three from Kent Sunday. With the two wins, Carolina improved to 8-2 on the young season. Check out **SPORTS** for details.

How many children's sports referees are attacked each year by angry parents



JUST FOR FUN

ANSWER: 100

Source: Harper's Index