

USC first and only choice

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When I was a senior in high school, I made what has been the most important decision of my life up to this point: the decision of where I wanted to attend college.

Fortunately, the decision was an easy one for me.

Before I was old enough to even worry about college, I was a big Gamecock fan. The experience of attending the football games as a youth was second to none. As a student, I've learned that the atmosphere of the game from the student section is even more phenomenal.

My first visit to Carolina as a prospective student hooked me to the school. Before I even set foot onto campus that day, I saw from driving around that the city of Columbia was just the right size for me—big enough to have plenty of things to do, but small enough not to be totally overwhelming.

I already knew the quality of USC's journalism program was unmatched in the region and that the Honors College was among the finest in the South. But a day on campus showed me that this was definitely where I belonged. Everything from the beauty of the Horseshoe to the quality of student life was awesome, and I left Columbia that day excited about my future as a Gamecock.

When the first day of school rolled around, I was really nervous about everything. It wasn't just the fact that I was about to be away from my parents' home for the first time, but I was wor-

ried about whether I'd get to know people or if my roommate and I would get along. And would I know where to find everything on such a large campus?

Of course, everything turned out just fine. I spent the first few weeks hanging out with people from my high school, but as time went on, I got to know more people. It only took a week or so for me to know where most things were on campus.

My first semester, I didn't get involved in any organizations because I was worried about whether I'd have time. That was a mistake! I joined Circle K International, a service organization on campus, my second semester. I quickly found out that the feeling of giving something back to the campus and to the community was unlike any other.

Ever since I joined *The Gamecock* staff midway through second semester, I've been busier than I've ever been—and I wouldn't have it any other way. Keeping active in student organizations has actually helped my GPA because I've been able to better organize what I have to do.

Now I'm editor in chief of *The Gamecock* for the summer—quite a big step for a shy kid from the upstate of South Carolina. My experience here has taught me that, no matter how big a school this might seem, it's not hard at all to make an impact if you really want to.

I've had the time of my life at USC, and if I had to do it all over again, it be just as easy a decision for me to make as it was my senior year of high school.

Transfer student talks about fitting in at USC

Rosalind Harvey
Class of '99

I transferred to USC, and it was the best decision I could have ever made!

Well, sure I am breaking my father's heart, with him being a Clemson graduate and all, but I think Carolina is finally growing on him. However, I think it will be a cold day in July before he will put the "I'm a USC dad" bumper sticker on his car.

I was really worried about transferring to another school. Besides the typical fear of becoming a number, I was afraid I would be a year behind, not only in my academic schedule but also with the campus.

I know it sounds weird, but I was honestly afraid I would not fit in and USC would be full of "cliques" already established. Plus I was afraid I could not really become involved in student activities.

Boy was I wrong!

The night before my first day of classes, I checked and double checked all of my classes for the day and the buildings they were in. I even starred them on my map of USC so I knew where I was going. Coming from a small school, I was afraid I was going to get lost on campus.

I really don't know why I was so nervous. Everything went very smoothly, and my professors seemed nice. I met several really nice peo-

ple, and I did not get lost!

By the end of my first semester I had fallen in love with USC. The football games, the people I met, my new friends, and yes, the classes as well. My fears of becoming a number on such a huge campus and of not fitting in were put to rest.

All of my professors knew me by my first name, and they really seemed to care. As a matter of fact, several of them still take the time to stop and talk to me when I see them on campus.

My second semester at USC was even better than my first. I decided I wanted to become involved in a student organization, so I chose to write for the school newspaper, *The Gamecock*.

Through the newspaper I met so many more people. Not only students, but great faculty members I would have never had the opportunity to meet if I had not become involved in a student organization.

The following semester I was chosen to be the news editor of *The Gamecock*, and later editor in chief.

So I was wrong yet again. My fear of not being able to become involved was also put to rest. Even though I started my life at USC as a sophomore, I was never a step behind.



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