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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA, S.C.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS

USC biological research yields advancements

BY KELLY HAGGERTY
STAFF WRITER

A USC professor has made a breakthrough in cancer research.

Vicki Vance has made a scientific breakthrough while studying plant viral diseases. She has created a way that could hypothetically allow tobacco plants to produce anti-cancer drugs.

For years, scientists have been genetically engineering plants to produce substances of medical importance in plants. Their experiments, however, revealed that too little of the substances could be made to have an effect. Vance found that a gene product of a potyvirus called P1/HC-Pro, when introduced into plants, would not limit the amount of substance produced.

"It is so exciting because it is interesting to me. I can hardly sleep because my mind works on it all the time," Vance said.

When other scientists introduced genes to plants, their antiviral defense mechanism inhibited the genes from performing. This is called gene silencing, and the P1/HC-Pro actually reverses the silencing process.

More than a month ago, Vance had a patent issued for the use of P1/HC-Pro, which she called a "booster sequence." She has been the first in her field to do so.

Graduate student Radha Anandalakshmi co-wrote a paper on the research with Vance. "It is very exciting because we had the first paper on the viral suppressor of gene silencing in plants. We are kind of in competition with other labs now, so it's fun," Anandalakshmi said.

Graduate student Allison Mallory said, "I think it's amazing. I'm really glad to be working in this lab right now because it's cutting edge."

Biology junior Bryan Mathis is working for the first time in lab. He said, "To

BIOLOGY SEE PAGE 2

AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT Two cars collided at the intersection of Sumter and Pendleton streets.



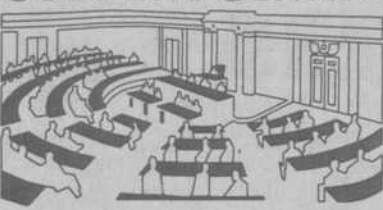
SEAN RAYFORD PHOTO EDITOR

The last car is removed from a four-car accident that occurred Thursday afternoon at Sumter and Pendleton streets. Police officers were there to help direct the traffic at the busy intersection. An ambulance escorted an unknown amount of victims to a local hospital.

SG resolves to investigate online voting

BY BRANDON LARRABEE
STAFF WRITER

STUDENT SENATE



A resolution supporting an investigation into online voting for Student Government became the first bill to pass the student senate this semester.

The resolution, which passed unanimously at the senate meeting Wednesday, was sponsored by Sens. Adam Dawkins and Patrick Gearman.

According to the resolution, "the Student Senate of the University of South Carolina does hereby offer its full support to the Elections Com-

mission and to the Computer Services Division in their investigation of the designing of an online voting system to be implemented in future student government elections." The bill does not support having an online voting system, just the investigation into one.

The bill's sponsors said the bill would make voting for Student Government easier.

Dawkins and Gearman's resolution remains the only bill passed by student senate so far this semester. Wednesday's meeting was the group's third.

However, Dawkins and Gearman, who co-chair the Judiciary Committee, say the number of bills passed so far is not unusual. Most bills must pass the Judiciary Committee before being voted on by the full senate.

"This is actually the norm," Dawkins said. He said there are two resolutions in the Judiciary Committee, and the committee itself might draft some legislation in the near future.

"I would say, right now, we're [at] our average," Gearman said. "It will pick up."

Dawkins agreed that more bills would come later this semester.

"I know that there are ideas floating around everywhere," he said.

Both senators also agreed that the numbers of bills would increase after the senate's retreat Sunday.

"At the actual retreat is where they are formally taught to write a bill," Dawkins said. He said "a tremendous amount of brainstorming" takes place at the retreat.

Gearman said many of the new senators on last year's retreat were surprised to learn that senators not on the Judiciary Committee could write bills.

Dawkins said he thought student senate would pass many effective bills this year.

"I think that, definitely, you're going to see a lot of very effective changes coming out of the senate this year," he said.

In other action Wednesday, the senate unanimously approved Student Body President Malik

"I think that, definitely, you're going to see a lot of very effective changes coming out of the senate this year."

Adam Dawkins
Judiciary Committee
co-chairman

Husser's nominations for the student members of the university committees. They include Julie Fridell and James Potts for Academic Responsibility, Tony Holcak for Registration and Amanda Veldman for Student Scholarship and Financial Aid.

Senate absences Wednesday included Sens. Reginald Cooper and Erin Shakelford.

Program to teach leadership qualities

BY ALEX WATSON
STAFF WRITER

USC's Emerging Leaders program will be exploring the attributes of a true leader and giving students the opportunity to become leaders themselves Tuesday through Nov. 17.

The 12-week program, which is open to all freshmen, is designed to help students gain the skills and confidence necessary to become a student leader.

Cindy Benton, director of leadership and community service programs, said freshmen will not only learn more about themselves, but will also learn more about the university.

"Emerging Leaders gives new students the opportunity to make an impact at the University of South Carolina. This program gives them the skills and the tools to be effective leaders during their tenure at the university," Benton said.

The Emerging Leaders program is designed to help students find their niche, accomplish their goals and most importantly, make a difference while attending USC Benton said.

Omni Porter, a former participant of the Emerging Leaders program, said the program helped to build her leadership skills and gave her the initiative to get more involved in other organizations while attending USC.

"The Emerging Leaders program is definitely a confidence booster," Porter said. Porter is now an Emerging Leader mentor who is active in hall government, the Drug Prevention program and various other organizations.

Benton said the program will definitely benefit students in the long run. Not only will they learn the characteristics of a fundamental leader, she said, but

New registrar vows to improve communication

BY PHILIP BURT
SENIOR WRITER

Barbara Blaney has been named USC's new registrar, and one of her goals is improve communication at USC.

USC had been searching for a registrar since February. Blaney, whose appointment was effective August 16, is not a new face at USC.

"It's not a new home for me, but it is a new role," she said.

Blaney has served as associate registrar at USC since 1990 and as director of registration from 1977-82. During the interim, she was university registrar for the University of North Carolina in Charlotte.

She was one of four candidates in a search by the Registrar Service Committee. Dr. Jerome D. Odom, USC provost and executive vice president of academic affairs said he met with the search committee and listened to their recommendations.

"We did a national search and had four candidates, and Barbara was an excellent choice."

The primary responsibility of the registrar's office is to keep track of every student's academic record on electronic transcripts.

"That is the heart of what the registrar does," Blaney said.

Other responsibilities involve scheduling classes, assigning classrooms for classes, providing registration for students to get into classes, making class rolls, making sure professors record grades, helping with graduation and making sure degrees are posted.

The registrar makes sure the records on the transcript are "accurate and safe," Blaney said.

"We are responsible for keeping and maintaining its integrity."

For graduate students, research-type projects are put onto the transcript. Thesis and dissertation titles are also placed

on the record.

Many people request their transcripts for jobs or for further study per year. However, once in awhile people do call and claim they've gone to USC, but really haven't.

The registrar can verify that someone went here or is going here, unless it is told not to. It can also justify things in the student directory, but not other information.

The registrar is a service organization, and one of its primary goals is to achieve a forum for communication that is user-friendly. One of the ways it does this is by working with other units such as the computer center, financial aid, admissions, graduate school, housing and academic affairs.

"I really want to collaborate with other managers to enhance service," Blaney said.

The registrar works closely with

REGISTRAR SEE PAGE 2



JESS MATTHEWS THE GAMECOCK

Located on Greene Street, the registrar's office is on the third floor of Petigru. This entrance is accessible from the Horseshoe.

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INSIDE



Sports previews
USC vs.
UGA.

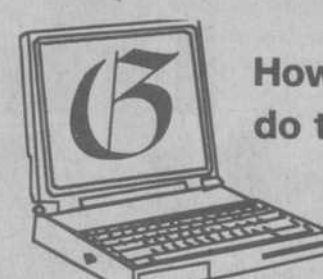
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DATEBOOK

SEPTEMBER SATURDAY
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• Rosh Hashanah
• Carolina Caravan to Athens, Ga.
• USC at Georgia, 1 p.m.
• Round Table Gaming Society, noon to 11:45 p.m., RH
• USC Dance Company auditions, 2 to 4 p.m., Blatt 114

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY
12
• Intramural Tug-of-War begins
• Garnet Circle, 8:30 p.m.

ONLINE POLL



How will the Gamecocks do this season?

Go to www.gamecock.sc.edu to vote in this week's poll.