

NEWS

# Best Buddies enters second year of service

BY SHANNON ROOKE  
STAFF WRITER

Entering into its second year, the Best Buddies chapter at USC is looking for new members.

Students who sign up for the program get paired with a local mentally disabled citizen with whom they can talk and spend time twice a month.

The pair can go into the community and do whatever they would like.

The meetings and outings can be the highlight of their week, according to Abbie Randall, student director of the program.

"The best way to make a difference is one-on-one involvement," said Lauren Carrico, activities coordinator for the chapter.

"Best Buddies is the way to do that."

Weekly meetings for the student buddies allow new buddies to get right into the system and receive a buddy fairly soon. Along with the meetings, twice a semester the entire group gathers for a picnic or a party.

The program originated in Greece, and the USC campus chapter is the first in South Carolina.

Beside the college chapter, there are also high school, community and job chapters as well.

The group that deals with jobs helps find employment and other opportunities for the disabled buddies.

"People always say that they want to change others' lives, and now programs like these are giving them the chance to do it," club treasurer Holly Dowd said.

The USC chapter has 30-40 college buddies. There is a position open for a fund chair in the program.

The program's mission is to enhance the lives of individuals with mental disabilities by providing opportunities for social activities and employment.

"It's a great opportunity to do some good in the community and also to enhance the life of someone else," Randall said.

To find out more, call Abbie Randall at 544-2205 or e-mail her at anrandall@netscape.net.

## GOLDWATER WORKSHOP

A Goldwater Workshop will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 21 at 4 p.m. in the Gressette Room, on the third floor of Harper College. The workshop is for sophomores and juniors interested in research-based careers in math, natural science or engineering. For more information call 777-0958.

## NSF GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

NSF graduate fellowships are awarded for graduate study toward to research-based master's or doctoral degrees in the fields of science, mathematics or engineering as supported by NSF. NSF will award approximately 1,000 new three-year fellowships in March 2000. Applicants must be citizens or nationals or resident aliens of the United States. The NSF Fellowship stipend during 2000-2001 will be \$16,000 and a cost-of-education allowance of \$8,600 per tenure year, coming to a total of \$75,000 over a three-year period. Fellows will be exempt

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**GREENBACKS**

from paying tuition and fees normally charged to students of similar academic standing.

### WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION:

Application packets are available in the Fellowships Office, Harper College 101. Applications must be postmarked by Nov. 9. A University Faculty Committee is available to assist students in completing their applications. For more information call Novella Beskid in the Fellowships Office at 777-0958, or NSF faculty advisor Caroline Eastman at 777-8103.

## PSIS

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tion of East Timor.

What about humanitarian efforts, some students asked. Blake Williams, a sophomore political science major, was quick to point out that though these types of efforts might be helpful, in this particular situation, these humanitarian organizations cannot continue to operate.

The meeting allowed students to express their opinions or reveal their knowledge on the situation in East Timor. Also, it allowed students merely interested in becoming informed about international affairs to do so in an informal setting.

PSIS meets every week to discuss current world affairs.

In addition to informal meetings, the club plans to eat at several foreign restaurants in the area, as well as invite guest speakers.

If you are interested in attending any of the meetings, look for fliers announcing meetings or contact Sven Gerzer at 748-9876 or e-mail him at PSIS-USC@vm.sc.edu.

### Gamecock News.

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