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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA, S.C.

## Nursing College receives grant

BY CLAYTON KALE  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The College of Nursing announced Tuesday it has received a grant to start a nursing research center from the National Institutes of Health. The grant makes the USC's College of Nursing one of only seven nursing research centers funded by the NIH.

"The College of Nursing is proud to be recognized by the National Institute of Nursing Research as having demonstrated leadership in nursing research," College of Nursing Dean Mary Ann Parsons said.

The five-year grant, which totals nearly \$1.5 million, is intended to set up the research center and to fund health promotion programs and health risk reduction for certain South Carolina populations.

The at-risk populations in South Carolina include teens, the elderly, minorities, men and women with HIV and AIDS, and others who have limited access to proper health care. USC President John Palms said the research center is a key step in helping the university reach its goal of being a top research university, which will allow the university to benefit South Carolinians.

"Our faculty's research skills offer the opportunity to provide direct benefits to our citizens and the quality of their lives," Palms said.

The NIH grant will enable USC's research center to develop a team of researchers to study health problems among those at greatest risk for disease while promoting interdisciplinary studies with USC faculty from outside the College of Nursing.

The center will also share the findings of USC nursing research with scientists, health care professionals and policy-makers, and it will provide annual grants of \$10,000 to USC nursing faculty so they can develop pilot studies that will lead to larger research projects.

The first study to be conducted under the

NIH funding will be a study on Georgia women infected with HIV, according to USC spokeswoman Karen Tant.

Another project funded by the NIH will study depression in rural South Carolina.

"The center will draw upon the expertise of our faculty who study the health problems of South Carolinians, including substance abuse, HIV and AIDS, and Alzheimer's disease," Parsons said.

Other universities that have nursing research centers are the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of Washington, the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Iowa.

UCLA and the University of Texas at Austin also received grants from the NIH to start nursing research centers.

### STATE FAIR Annual autumn tradition returns



TRAVIS LYNN THE GAMECOCK

The Ferris wheel at the South Carolina State Fair, as well as all of the other rides, is inspected twice. State law requires that each ride be inspected at least once.

## Workers assure safety of S.C. State Fair rides

BY KEVIN LANGSTON  
NEWS EDITOR

The recent accidents at amusement parks nationwide have state and fair officials trying to assure people that South Carolina State Fair rides are safe; students, however, have their doubts.

Sociology sophomore Jacqueline Greene is taking her 3-year-old daughter to the fair, but she said she won't be riding any of the rides.

"I think they're dangerous," Greene said. "There's something about the speed and the way they work."

Journalism junior Joey Schrage is going to the fair with his girlfriend.

"I have to be romantic," he said. "She wants me to win her a stuffed animal."

Schrage said he has no plans to ride the rides.

"I'm scared of those rides," he said. "When you combine heights with things that go really fast, I really don't like it."

Greene and Schrage are aware of the recent accidents that have gained national exposure. Schrage said the accidents, like the one where a 12-year-old was killed on the Drop Zone at Paramount's Great America Park in Santa Clara, Calif., have cemented his decision to stay off the rides at the fair.

"I saw those rides when they were halfway built," he said. "I just don't trust the rednecks that

put them together."

Jim Knight, spokesman for the S.C. Department of Labor and Licensing, wants people to know the rides at the state fair are indeed safe.

He said his department is required by law to inspect the amusement rides on an annual basis. They have been inspecting the State Fair's rides for the past two weeks.

"The rides at the state fair get a good inspection by our agency," Knight said.

"We take ride safety very seriously. We're very proactive with ensuring the safety of these rides."

Gary Goodman  
S.C. State Fair manager

Gary Goodman, manager of the South Carolina State Fair, said the fair takes several steps to ensure the safety of the rides. He said that in addition to the inspection by the state, it hires a private inspector to look at the rides, as well.

"We take ride safety very seriously," Goodman said. "We're very proactive with ensuring the safety of these rides."

According to Knight, the inspectors check for the mechanical integrity, the welding, the setup, the storage of electrical wires, blocking (the fencing around the ride) and the training of the ride operators.

In the past, rides that haven't met the proper safety requirements have been closed down, he said.

"That's always the case," Knight said.

FAIR SEE PAGE 2

## Students attend anti-death penalty rally

BY PATRICK RATHBUN  
SENIOR WRITER

Eight USC students attended a recent anti-death penalty conference in Philadelphia, P.A.

The National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty put on the annual event that boasted David Kazinski, brother of the unabomber, as the keynote speaker. A diverse group of people attended the conference, including attorneys, relatives of death row inmates, relatives of murder victims, activists and people who just wanted to know more about the issue, according to government and international studies junior Jotaka Eaddy.

Eaddy spoke at a rally outside Philadelphia District Attorney Lynn Abraham's office. Eaddy said Abraham is considered controversial because of the racial disparity in the executions of Philadelphia criminals. African Americans make up only 40 percent of the city's population, yet 85 percent of Philadelphia residents who are executed are African American, according to Eaddy.

Eaddy was also elected to the national board of directors of the coalition. She said she feels the event was worthwhile, calling it a "wonderful learning experience."

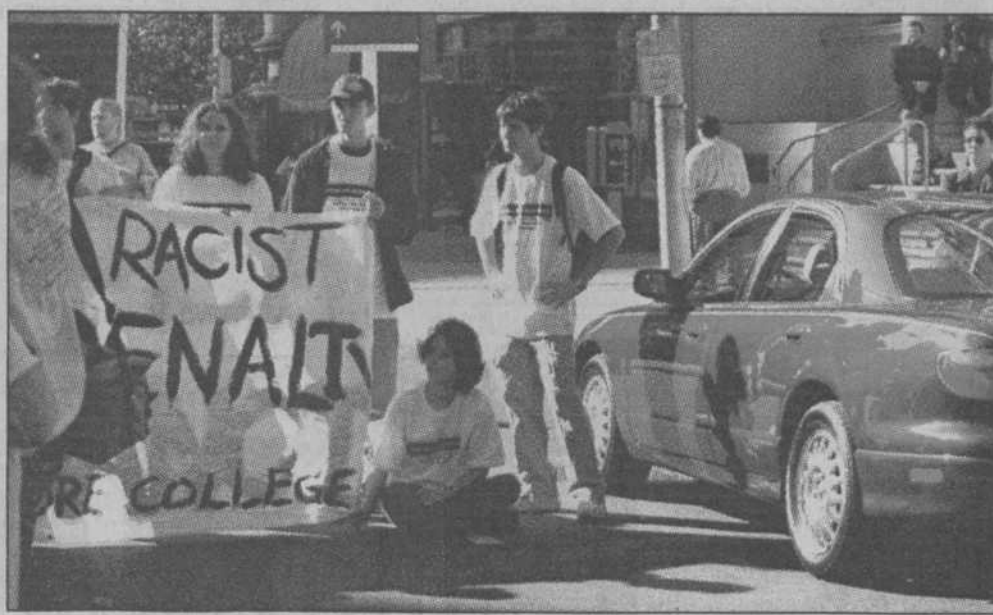
Another attendee felt the same way.

"The whole experience was enlightening," English/finance junior Dante Tyus said. "It was a powerful experience in general."

Eaddy is in the process of forming a state-wide student organization for abolishing the death penalty, and she's also involved in forming a national alliance with anthropology sophomore Rachel Helwig.

The conference featured several workshops and discussed ways for activists and attorneys to work together to pass death penalty legislation. The student activists cited several reasons for their opposition to the death penalty.

"I want to abolish [the death penalty] in practice and in theory," Eaddy said. "It is arbitrarily adminis-



RACHEL HELWIG THE GAMECOCK

Students from Swarthmore College demonstrate Oct. 1 in front of the office of Philadelphia District Attorney Lynn Abraham, known in the city as "the deadliest D.A."

tered, and there are economic, social and racial disparities with the death penalty."

Tyus opposed the penalty for similar reasons.

"If we turn our backs on small injustices, then we won't recognize major injustices," he said. "It's not fair. Who is to say [death row inmates] are devoid of the natural right of humanity?"

Nursing freshman Talwanna President said the death penalty affects minorities.

"[The death penalty] affects minorities very much," she said. "It's not only racist, but it has to do with economics."

Eaddy also cited other flaws in the penalty as reasons for her opposition toward it.

"[The death penalty] is full of kinks and flaws," she said. "You can't have a system where you execute people without 100 percent accuracy. Our criminal

justice needs to check itself."

Since 1976, 80 people punished by death have been found innocent, Eaddy said. In having the penalty, Eaddy said she thinks the United States is in violation of United Nations law.

Tyus said, in the end, individuals' efforts do pay off. "If we [at USC], collectively, wanted to achieve something, it would get done, or at least get major attention," he said.

Eaddy said the efforts will not stop until the flaws of the system are improved. "We will continue to rally and march until human rights violations in this country are corrected," Eaddy said.

1999 has been the biggest year for the death penalty in almost 50 years, and 76 killers have been put to death in 18 states, according to an Oct. 3 *New York Times* article.

## Carolina leads in false fire alarms

BY JOHN HUIETT  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

USC dorms are the leading offenders of false fire alarms in Columbia, Assistant Fire Chief Bradley Anderson said.

The number of false fire alarms in the city nearly doubled between 1991 and 1998 to almost 4,000. Anderson said false alarms at USC dorms account for a large part of the recent increase, costing taxpayers an estimated \$321 per false alarm.

The total cost for false fire alarms in 1998 was more than \$1 million, according to the most recent fire-report figures published on the City of Columbia Web site.

Anderson said because repeat offenders are charged \$100 per alarm after three false alarms within a 12-month period, USC dorms have paid a considerable amount of money.

Between July 1, 1998, and June 30, 1999, eight dorms cost USC nearly \$9,000 in false-alarm servicing fees. The biggest offender was South Quad, with \$3,100. Other repeat offenders include the Capstone and Bates dorms and the Swearingin engineering building, all with \$900 in

FIRE ALARM SEE PAGE 2

### WEATHER



TODAY  
69  
49



SATURDAY  
77  
51

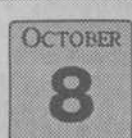
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Gamecocks prepare to take on Kentucky

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### DATEBOOK



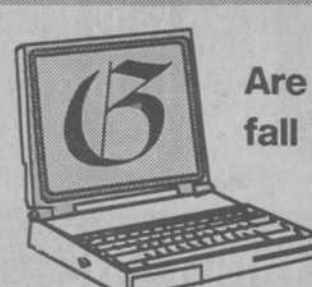
OCTOBER 8 TODAY  
Student Organization Renewal Deadline, 5 p.m.  
Campus Activities Center



OCTOBER 9 SATURDAY  
Football vs. Kentucky, 1 p.m.  
Great Gamecock Tailgate Party

Round Table Gaming Society, noon to 11:45 p.m., Russell House

### ONLINE POLL



Are you going home for fall break?

Go to [www.gamecock.sc.edu](http://www.gamecock.sc.edu) to vote in this week's poll.