

Brightharp seeks Graham's seat

BY ALICIA BALLARD
THE GAMECOCK

Democrat George Brightharp is challenging incumbent Republican Lindsey Graham for South Carolina's third district congressional position. Brightharp hopes to bring more funding for education to the district, while Graham



LINDSEY GRAHAM

hopes to reform social security as well as campaign financing. South Carolina's third district covers the northwestern corner of the state, including Anderson,

Greenwood and Aiken cities.

Congressman Lindsey Graham was the first Republican to represent the third district since 1877. Elected in 1995, he has served three terms in the United States House of Representatives representing the third district, and from 1992 to 1994, he represented Oconee County's second district in the South Carolina House of Representatives.

Graham was born in Central, South Carolina, and was graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Psychology and was awarded a Juris Doctorate from the university. He worked as attorney for Central and assistant attorney for Oconee County until his political career began in 1992.

George Brightharp, the democratic challenger for the third district, was a candidate for the South Carolina house in 1974 and 1987. He also served on the South Carolina Commission of Higher Education.

Brightharp was born in North Augusta, South Carolina. He has a Ph.D. from Atlanta University and an Education Specialist Degree from the University of South Carolina. He currently works as a guidance counselor at Strom Thurmond High School in Johnston, South Carolina.

During the next term, Congressman Graham hopes to continue his work towards reforming the government.

"I hope to reform Social Security and allow for better returns of social security money," Graham said. "I would also like to work towards campaign finance reform and eliminating soft money."

"I want to finish the job," Graham said. "I think I have been an effective voice for the state. The last six years have been very successful. The deficits have been replaced with surplus and social security dollars are no longer being used to run the government."

Democratic challenger, George

Brightharp wants to bring more money for education to the third district.

"My main issue is education," Brightharp said. "Since I am a high school counselor, I live and breathe education. I would like to work with the secretary of education to bring federal grant money to the third district."

Brightharp also hopes to "change the image of the third district congressman."

"The current congressman, Lindsey Graham, spent most of his time last term trying to oust the president for unconstitutional reasons," he said. "I want to change that image and try to work together with the other party."

Brightharp has a rally planned in Abbeville on Wednesday night.

The city/state desk can be reached at gamecockcitydesk@hotmail.com.

CROSSWALKS

from page 1

Hubbard said.

The streetscaping plans were only given conceptual approval, according to Hubbard. He said the plans will have to be individually approved by the council.

Hubbard said the board also wants to replace the current street signs around campus with garnet-colored signs and add signs welcoming drivers to the university. All of those changes would let drivers know they were on a college campus and cause them to slow down, Hubbard said.

Student Government President Jotaka Eddy said she was in favor of the board's crosswalk plan.

"I think that the proposal with the walkways will greatly enhance safety for the students," Eddy said.

Eddy said the board's proposals concerning the addition of green space and the replacement of the current street signs with garnet ones would promote school spirit and help in "setting a boundary for USC's campus."

However, while Eddy agreed with Hubbard on the need to slow traffic on Greene Street, she differed with the board's plan to open Greene Street.

"I would suggest that we continue to keep Greene Street closed" during the hours it is now closed, Eddy said.

She also said that if the University plans on taking out parking spaces on streets around campus, it "must adequately replace those spaces, and before they take

away those parking spaces," as well as make progress operating the shuttlecock system.

Director of Student Life Jerry Brewer said USC was pleased with the approval, saying it will be a definite step forward in regards to student safety.

"We're excited about the opportunity to do something from the start that will get students from the Wellness Center to class safely," Brewer said.

Students share Brewer's enthusiasm about the crosswalks, but question the wisdom of the Greene Street proposal.

Psychology sophomore Josh Pruitt Mayfield praised the crosswalk plan.

"It will keep students from having to cross Assembly Street," he said. "It will keep us safer."

But his take on the Greene Street proposal were less than approving.

"I don't like that idea because it's the main section of campus," he said. "Not only will it keep traffic more congested, it will be harder for students and people will take less precautions [crossing the street]."

Chemistry junior Brett Rambo agreed with Mayfield on both counts, adding that it doesn't make sense to possibly put students in danger by allowing traffic to flow constantly through Greene Street, even if it was at a lower speed limit.

"It seems like through traffic on Greene Street would be a pain ... for people crossing," Rambo said. "It seems to be working the way it is."

However, Brewer stressed that the Greene Street proposal is just that, a proposal, and no effort will be made to implement it without extensive student feedback on the matter.

Parent's weekend activities begin today

BY KELLY HAMILTON
THE GAMECOCK

Parent's Weekend, the annual event allowing USC students and their parents to spend time together and participate in a variety of activities, will take place this weekend.

The Office of Parent's Programs has planned various events throughout the weekend.

The weekend is designed to educate parents on their children's lives, but to do it in a fun way, said Rick Gant, director of the Student and Parent Involvement Program for the Department of Students.

"The goal is to involve parents in the college experience," Gant said. "We want to give them a taste of college life. There is so much fun and excitement on campus right now, and we think they should be a part of it."

The weekend will begin with registration and packet pick-up from 10-5 to-

day and Saturday in the Russell House in Room 201.

On Friday afternoon, President and Mrs. Palms will host a Parent/Student Drop-In from 5-6:30 p.m. at their home on the Horseshoe.

The Drop-in will be followed by the Carolina Welcome Party, where parents and students can sample barbecue, grits and seafood and dance to beach music.

"We have parents who come back every year," Gant said. "They really enjoy this and we like that. We've gotten a lot of positive feedback in the past few years."

Saturday will begin with a 5K Fun Run, with registration starting at 7:15 a.m. at the Blatt PE Center. The starting line will be at the center on Wheat Street and the course will continue through the Shandon neighborhood before doubling back to the finish line on Wheat Street. The race costs \$15 on race day, and \$12 for those who pre-register.

Awards will be given to the first place male and female finishers in three categories: USC Parent, USC Student, and non-USC student or parent. T-shirts will be given to the first 300 people who register.

Parents and students are encouraged to attend Food For Thought at the Bates House Cafeteria from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is a chance for students and parents to catch up with each other on all that has happened so far in the fall semester.

"Parents should be a part of the lives and education of their son or daughter," said Gant. "They are there for more than just to move them in and pay the bills. Students can show their parents around the campus, and they can meet their friends and see what goes on around here."

At the Parent's Weekend Tailgate Party before the USC-Eastern Michigan football game, students can take part in the tradition of tailgating with Cocky, the USC cheerleaders and the USC band,

Gant said, adding that this is the "showcase event of the weekend."

Food and beverages will be provided.

"I hope [the Gamecocks] play as well as they did last week so the parents can see the excitement surrounding a big victory," Gant said.

Gant said the weekend should be extra special for those parents who haven't been in Columbia or on the USC campus for a long time, saying that a majority of Parents Weekend activities is designed with them in mind.

"This will be quite an experience for those from out of state," Gant said. "The majority of the parents coming in are from out of state. This is their special invitation to come to Carolina and have fun."

The university desk can be reached at gamecockdesk@hotmail.com.

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