

Hodges honors Governor's two Professors of the Year

BY KIMBERLY DRESSLER
THE GAMECOCK

Gov. Jim Hodges honored two professors from South Carolina as the 2000 Governor's Professors of the Year on Sept. 29.

Dr. Ashok Satpathy at South Carolina State University and Dr. Ronald J. Harshbarger at USC-Beaufort were this year's two recipients. They were each honored with a citation from the Commission on Higher Education and a \$5000 award.

The Governor's award was set up to honor two outstanding teachers each year. The professors must demonstrate extraordinary teaching skills, new and creative teaching methods, positive student evaluations and public service efforts that supplement and enhance the candidate's teaching credentials.

Each year, one professor is honored from both a two-year college and a four-year university. The professors must be nominated by someone who has knowledge of their skills.

After announcing both men, Hodges praised them.

"It is my great pleasure to honor these professors to their selfless devotion to teaching," Hodges said. "They have shared their knowledge with countless South Carolinians, both inside and outside the classroom."

Harshbarger has been teaching at USC-Beaufort since 1996, and he is a professor and advisor of math-

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ematics. He is the author of six mathematics textbooks and has been the co-author of 14 additional editions. He pioneered the use of handheld computers and graphing calculators to illustrate concepts within the classroom. Harshbarger was nominated for this award by the Dean of USC-Beaufort and an academic dean.

He was then informed that he had been selected as a finalist and went to a half-hour interview with members of the Commission of Higher Education.

"I'm very honored to receive this award. It is a bit of a shock for a mathematics professor," Harshbarger said. "Math is not everyone's favorite subject to study. But it is really just a great honor to receive."

He went on to say that he hoped Beaufort would benefit from the award as much as he would.

"I think this will be very beneficial for people in the low country," he said. "It is important to let them know what a good school they have in USC-Beaufort."

Satpathy has been teaching at South Carolina State University since 1989. In that time, he has received numerous awards for his

teaching, including the 2000 South Carolina State Teacher of the Year Award and the Millennium Award for Excellence in Teaching at a Historically Black College and University.

He is an associate professor of chemistry, and has worked continuously to enhance his students' knowledge in that area.

He created the Student Oriented Comprehensive Knowledge Enhancement Technique, otherwise known as SOCKET, to help students with their chemistry studies. SOCKET is a Web site that will provide students with two complete chemistry courses on-line.

He is also actively involved with schools in Orangeburg. He is working with the Orangeburg Consolidated School District 5 on ways to incorporate new technology into every classroom.

"It makes me happy to know that all of the students will know what a great education they can get by attending one of the schools with these honored professors," Harshbarger said.

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

Forum addresses media violence

BY GINA CARUSO
THE GAMECOCK

Challenging common perceptions of an issue that has made headlines nationwide, a USC professor led a forum on the reality of violence in films Monday night.

The event, which was held in the Bates House social room, was sponsored by Bates Hall Government.

USC film studies and University 101 professor Dan Berman headed the session, offering his opinions on film violence and providing students with an opportunity to react to and ask questions about several clips shown.

According to Berman, the question is whether violence is realistic or surreal and what purpose it serves in the film.

"We are concerned with what the audience takes from the film and if the violence is exploitive or making a point," he said.

"Sometimes films aren't violent enough, making them unrealistic. However, if the violence has meaning and context, there is something to learn and grow from."

The forum began with Berman discussing some camera techniques frequently used when filming violent scenes. He described the screen as an emotional map, with the right side having more power than the left. He also explained how film directors create emotion through different camera angles and movement about the screen.

Berman then began to address the controversial issue on film violence.

"It is important that we see everything, discuss it and then determine what we can learn from it," Berman said. "What we see will only become dangerous if it is not talked about."

The first clip shown was from the film "Taxi Driver" in which Robert DeNiro plays the role of the alienated Vietnam veteran who grows increasingly deranged and isolated from American society and

eventually plans to assassinate a presidential candidate. According to Berman, the psychology of DeNiro's character makes the film interesting and tells us something about American society.

"It is interesting in that violence is shown, but perhaps helps us as society to learn," he said.

Berman continued the session with a clip from "Terminator 2" which displayed a series of violent events through the eyes of the killer and concluded with the opening scene from "Natural Born Killers," the most controversial film of the 1990s, according to Berman. He stressed the fact that violence is very exaggerated in the film.

"The director of the film satirizes violence by making it so extreme. The 'natural born killers' are the extreme reflection of a violent society," Berman said.

The forum concluded with some final remarks by Berman.

"Many of the best films are very violent, but have a lot of substance. Therefore, political candidates should not attempt to censor what we watch. Trying to keep something from us is dangerous. Once discussed, the violence becomes something to understand and allows us to make better decisions in our lives," he said.

Students who attended the forum offered their views on movie violence in regards to Berman's speech.

"It provided me with insight on camera tricks and how they effect the characters. It was very informative," freshman Ryan Dorsey said.

Freshman Byron David said the discussion caused him to change his views concerning violent films.

"Now I understand that communication is important," David said. "If we talk about violence, we'll understand what was meant."

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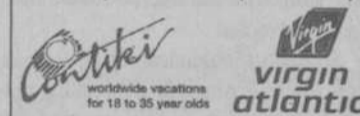
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