

Education

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"We also do advisement for particular categories of students," Hurt said. "We advise all non-degree students, which would cover people that have finished their degree and want to come back and take some classes."

The Continuing Education Academic Credit Program also works to accommodate students who need courses at sites and times compatible with their jobs or other schedule restrictions, according to the program's Web site.

The program achieves this mission by offering undergraduate courses for regular academic credit through classes in the evening, at Fort Jackson and during the weekend.

The evening and weekend programs also offer undergraduate courses, usually condensed into only a few class meetings per week.

The Fort Jackson program offers associate degrees in arts and science and a bachelor of arts in interdisciplinary studies for active-duty military, their dependents and government-contracted on-post civilians.

Boyd said the courses the program operates account for 10 percent of the undergraduate enrollment at USC.

"The purpose of the Continuing Education Academic Program is to link the undergraduate courses with students who need flexibility and scheduling," Boyd said.

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Herbarium

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the Southeast.

The plants that the herbarium collects are first dried and pressed and then glued onto 100-percent cotton fiber, acid-free paper. Next the plants are annotated, labeled and stored in metal cases that fill the herbarium wall-to-wall.

Such measures for preservation are taken because the specimens are meant to last indefinitely. Although Nelson said most of the herbarium's specimens are recent, it has a number of plants preserved from the 19th century.

"The herbarium is important to the university because it represents a long-term collection; that is, it has been going for a long, long time," Nelson said. "A lot of energy has been directed into it, and it represents the largest collection of its kind in the state."

While Nelson said most of the specimens of plants have come from students working on projects or from outside agencies such as the Department of Natural Resources, many herbaria exchange plants from their collections in order to expand their resources.

"Say the University of Oklahoma — they send us specimens, and then we send them specimens, and see, their people don't often get over this far east, and we don't often get that far west, so it's kind of a convenient way to mix and match," Nelson said. "It's kind of another good way the university gets free advertising."

Students and staff, as well as the community, use the resources provided by the herbarium.

Jamie Civitello, an anthropology graduate student, said that

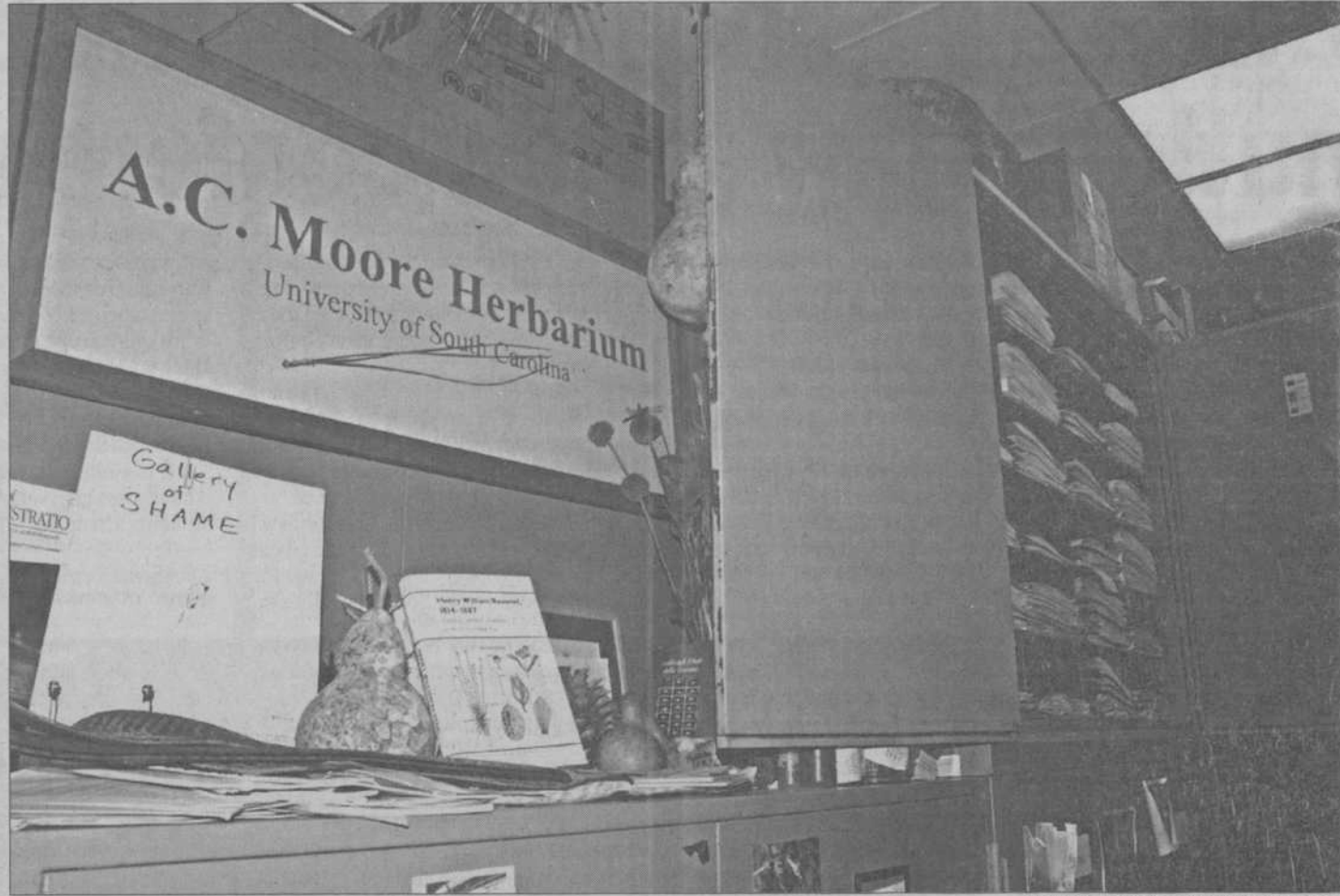


PHOTO BY JOHNNY HAYNES/THE GAMECOCK

Although its initial specimens were provided by A.C. Moore's own collection, the herbarium's assortment of preserved plants now numbers more than 89,000 specimens.

her work there as an anthropology student shows the interdisciplinary nature of the herbarium. Civitello, who studies ethnobotany, the study of how particular cultures make use of plants, used her research at the herbarium to create an extensive Web site on ancient gardening in South Carolina.

Linda Lee, collections manager, has been working at the herbarium since September.

"It's always good if you feel like you're doing something that is personally meaningful," said Lee, who has been working on adding digital photographs of various

plants to the South Carolina Plant Atlas online. The Atlas displays the plant distributions for native and naturalized ferns, fern allies, and seed- and flower-bearing plants in each South Carolina county.

"Obviously, it's a valuable asset to other taxonomists," Lee said. Lee said it is also an asset to other researchers. In fact, she said, researchers are now involved with some molecular-bio-

logical work studying mutant plants. "They're creating all these

different mutant plants to study different things," Lee said. The herbarium is keeping specimens of the mutant plants

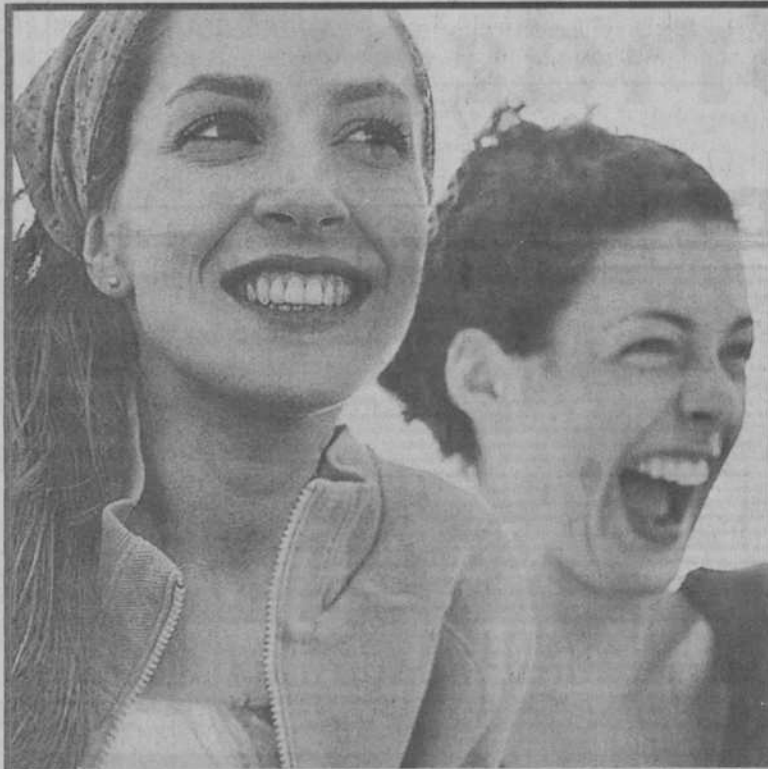
so that researchers can extract DNA from the plants later, they can.

Nelson said the herbarium, which is continually acquiring new specimens, hopes to move from its location at the Coker Life

Sciences building to new quarters.

"We are running out of room, and we need more space," said Nelson, who said that the herbarium is considering moving to McKissick Museum. "It would be kind of great because if we were over there, it would be possible to have the herbarium as the university's largest natural-history collection, kind of like this sort of focus of all the other natural-history collections."

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