

# Grant to fund research for six undergraduates

BY MICHAEL LAFORGIA  
THE GAMECOCK

USC has received a \$105,600 grant to award to six undergraduate students for research in chemistry and life sciences.

According to a news release from USC Media Relations, the 2003 Beckman Scholarship will award \$17,600 to six undergraduate students, each of whom will conduct part-time research one school year and full-time research for two summers.

USC is one of 13 schools selected to receive the scholarship by the California-based Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation, which is offering the grant to encourage advances in chemistry and the life sciences.

Ed Miller, director of the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships, said he doesn't know the specifics of the scholarship yet.

"The scholarship has probably been developed by the Office of Development," Miller said.

Miller said the university gives out about 1,000 scholarships to graduate and undergraduate students.

New scholarships are often created by private organizations or through the University Foundation.

"I'd say more often than that, a new scholarship is created," Miller said. "A large number of our scholarships are awarded by different departments."

Miller said he didn't know how recipients will be selected, but that students usually have to apply for such awards. He said in most cases, the scholarships require an application process.

Doug Cowser, a second-year biology student, said he thinks USC has good life sciences programs.

"It's challenging, and I think it prepares you for medical school and other programs that might come up later."

Cowser also said he thinks the scholarship should improve the university's life sciences programs.

**"It's a recognition of the programs here, that they're good programs, and we're doing something right."**

**DOUG COWSER**  
SECOND-YEAR BIOLOGY STUDENT, ON THE GRANT USC HAS RECEIVED FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

"It's getting students to invest their time in research, it's definitely going to affect students," Cowser said. "It's a recognition of the programs here, that they're good programs, and we're doing something right."

USC will announce the recipients of the award this spring.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockdesk@hotmail.com



Rafe Westbrook, left, a third-year political-science student, and Steve Nuzum, a second-year English student, rehearse for the Puppet Regime's upcoming production "Artless."

PHOTO BY JOHNNY HAYNES/THE GAMECOCK

## Regime

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written and sometimes too experimental for main-stage productions, Hogue said.

"I like it when people bring me material that some of the other theaters would be afraid to do around town," Hogue said. "We try and do things of an experimental nature, whether that's in the text itself or in the staging of the show."

"Artless," the play the group is working on now, is written by USC student Steve Nuzum.

"The Puppet Regime, their, like, whole goal is to put on undergraduate stuff, student-directed stuff and student-written stuff," said

Nuzum, a second-year English student. "It's just like the perfect outlet to do something like that."

Stephanie Walker, a second-year theater student, is directing "Artless," which will be performed in Benson Theatre April 22 through April 24.

"I had known that Puppet Regime existed since freshman year," said Walker, whose experience in the group began with "Artless." "He (Nuzum) and I discussed performing the play last semester, and I thought of Puppet Regime, since it's pretty much all student run."

Walker said the best part of the Puppet Regime is the group's independence.

"We're not part of the USC main-stage theater," Walker said.

"We have our own budgets. We have our own paint, lights, sets. We have our own theater."

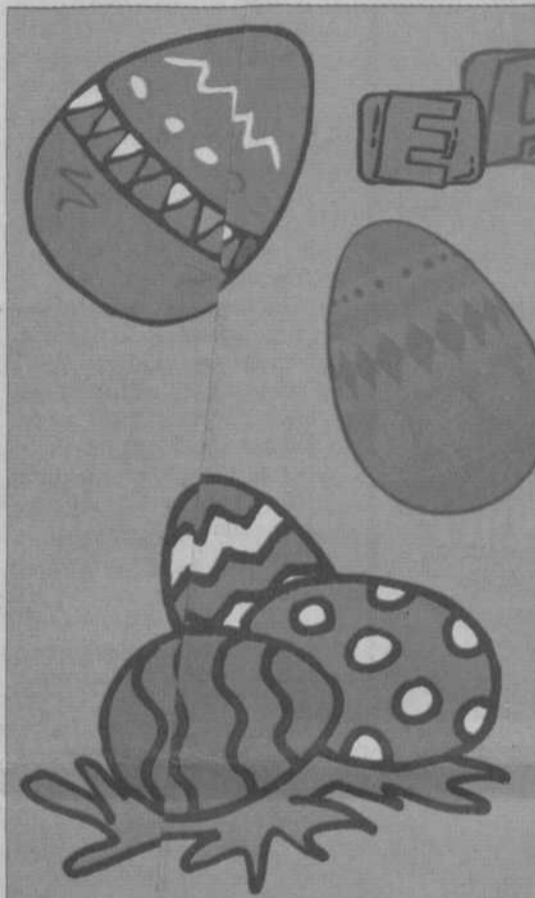
Students are involved in all aspects of production. For instance, Nuzum, who wrote "Artless," is also part of the cast.

Hogue said that, unlike in many theater classes, students in the Puppet Regime can be experimental without having to worry about negative effects.

"What's great about it is that there are no consequences," Hogue said. "You can't fail, you know. It's not graded. It's not a job. You just, you come and you try things out, and sometimes they really work, and sometimes they really don't."

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