

USC plans 4-year education degree

BY KEITA ALSTON
THE GAMECOCK

The College of Education is offering new bachelor's degree programs to enhance teacher recruitment and retention in South Carolina. The programs have not been officially approved by the South

Carolina Commission on Higher Education, but Les Sternberg, dean of the College of Education, said he hopes the programs will be approved at a meeting on May 1 or May 2. Three programs will be offered and will focus on early-childhood education, elementary education and middle-level education.

Sternberg said that, while most of the teacher-education programs at USC are at the graduate level, the programs are geared toward undergraduates, as well. "These are all undergraduate programs," Sternberg said. "Students who begin studying these programs will be able to get their initial certification within

four years." The proposed programs were developed by faculty in the College of Education, with input from the state Education Department, teachers and faculty in colleges at other campus. "It was a massive collaborative approach between a whole host of people that put these programs to-

gether," he said. Now, students are required to complete a bachelor's degree in another major, such as liberal arts or science and mathematics. Then, during their fifth year, they get a master of arts in teaching that provides them with necessary education coursework and student internships to get their

initial teacher certification. "Now, students will not have to get a master's degree in order to get their initial certification," Sternberg said. "They will only have to get a bachelor's degree." The program will be used to recruit more teachers in South

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Workin' the mic for MTV



PHOTO BY CANDI HAUGLUM/THE GAMECOCK

MTV's Campus Invasion's "Two Turntables and a Microphone," held Wednesday, drew large crowds eager to watch students face off with their lyrical skills. Ben Fagan, a first-year business student, won the competition several times.

Carolina Center ranked for sales

Magazine lists venue among highest sellers in industry

BY WENDY JEFFCOAT
THE GAMECOCK

Pollstar magazine has ranked the Carolina Center the 16th-highest-selling venue in the entertainment industry for the first quarter of 2003 in its April 21 issue. According to Pollstar, the center, which opened in late November, sold 53,308 tickets to events between Jan. 1 and March 31. "I think the one thing it does is, being a new building, it tells everybody in the industry we're a busy building and we've been selling tickets," said Tom Paquette, general manager of the Carolina Center. "If you sell tickets, events will come."

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Students struggle for job experience

Don't panic over internships, say professors as students explore options

BY ADAM BEAM
THE GAMECOCK

Fourth-year computer-engineering student Tarun Aggarwal has spent the last two years of his college career unsuccessfully looking for an internship — but USC professors say there is no need to panic. Aggarwal's frustrations mirror those of many USC students who, during these turbulent economic times, have contemplated graduate school to escape the shrinking job market. "I'm graduating with honors, and I still haven't had any experience," Aggarwal said. "It's hard for

me to get a job, even with a high GPA." But students shouldn't bank their career hopes only on internships, said Ralph White, dean of the College of Engineering and Information Studies. "Internships help, but they don't exclude," he said. "Often times, employers will hire students that they perceive to be potential outstanding employees, whether they have had any internships or not." While students are busy earning their degrees during the fall and spring semesters, the summer lets them fine-tune those skills learned

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USC hands out official university rings

BY MICHAEL LAFORGIA
THE GAMECOCK

USC handed out rings to upperclassmen this week, continuing a tradition that's not as old as you might think. Cami Best, member programs coordinator for the Carolina Alumni Association, said about 160 students attended the ring ceremony last May, but only about half that number showed up Tuesday. Even so, ring orders have averaged about 1,200 during the past few years. Best said the ring ceremony is a respected custom at

Carolina. "It's just something the university does because it just feels the ring is that important of a tradition," Best said. The ring, a gold signet, features the USC school seal and motto by Ovid, "Emollit Mores Nec Sinit Esse Feros" ("Learning humanizes character and does not permit it to be cruel"). Beneath the motto is an image of Minerva, Roman goddess of wisdom, and the American icon, Liberty. Kim Dickerson of the Carolina Alumni Association Programs and Events Team



PHOTO BY KATIE SMITH/THE GAMECOCK

Fourth-year finance student Katie Koerner models her class ring. USC recently switched to one official ring design.

said the university has always issued class rings, but has only recently switched to one official USC ring. Best said there used to be several varieties of class rings, but university officials chose to establish one official ring in

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U.S. forces capture visible Iraqi leader Tariq Aziz

BY ROBERT BURNS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — U.S. forces in Iraq have taken custody of Tariq Aziz, the former deputy prime minister and the most visible Iraqi leader other than Saddam Hussein. Officials at the Pentagon and at Central Command headquarters in Qatar said Thursday they did not know whether Aziz was captured or whether he turned himself in. On the U.S. list of the 55 most-

wanted members of the former government, Aziz was No. 43, the eight of spades in the military's card deck of top Iraqi leaders. His prominence in the regime could make Aziz a source for the best information yet on the fate of Saddam and his two sons, as well as the location of any hidden weapons of mass destruction. "We can confirm Tariq Aziz is now under coalition control," said Central Command spokeswoman Capt. Dani Burrows. Sen. Bob Graham, D-Fla., former chairman of the Senate

Intelligence Committee, said Thursday night the arrest of another top Iraq official, in Syria, would be announced shortly. Graham, at a session of the Council on Foreign Relations, declined to identify the Iraqi, saying only that he held one of the most sensitive positions in the Iraqi government and was arrested in the past 24 hours. Aziz was often the public face of Iraq when responding to accusations by the United States and United Nations. In other developments

Thursday: — President Bush raised the possibility that any Iraqi weapons of mass destruction were destroyed before or during the U.S.-led war, suggesting for the first time that coalition troops may come up empty in their search. — In an interview with The Associated Press, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said that the United States will not allow an Iran-style religious

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