

Provost Odom will step down

BY ADAM BEAM
THE GAMECOCK

USC Provost Jerry Odom announced Wednesday that he would step down as the university's top academic officer to concentrate on his family and teaching chemistry. This year marks Odom's 35th year in higher education, 16 of which have been in administration. He said he would like to end his career in the

classroom.

"I've always planned to do this," Odom said, who said he told the chemistry department to keep an office available for him.

His personal life also affected his decision. Odom said he would like to spend more time with his wife and adopted 6-year-old son, Ben. In his time as provost, Odom helped to navigate the restructuring of the university in 2001 as the chairman of the Strategic Directives and Initiatives Committee. He has been provost since 1997.

"His knowledge of the university and his insights have been

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Faculty, staff disagree on college merger

BY ADAM BEAM
THE GAMECOCK

The committee investigating the creation of a college of arts and sciences said it wanted input before making its recommendation to the president — and that's exactly what it got Wednesday afternoon.

About 25 faculty members, staff and a handful of students showed up at Gambrell Hall on Wednesday to ask questions and give their opinions to the 10-member committee, made up of faculty members from both colleges.

The feeling from a majority of faculty members at Wednesday's meeting was that the merger was not needed and would only create a headache as the college tried to piece together the administrative staffs of the two colleges.

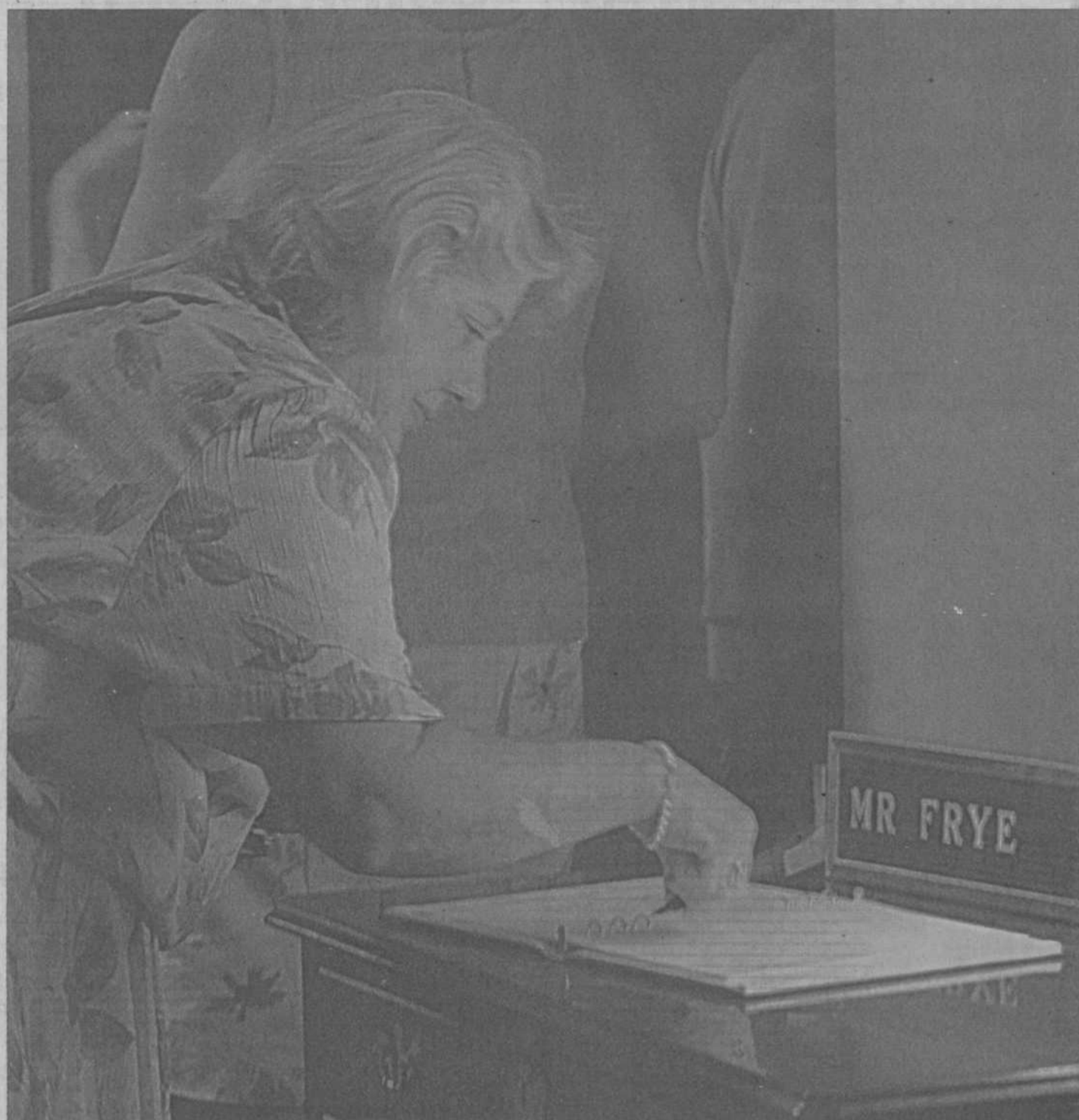
"I live in a neighborhood where

I barely know my neighbors. The solution my neighborhood has is to not move us all into one house. The solution they have is to have fish fries," said chemistry professor Michael Myrick. "I'm all for the fish fry."

The discussion was the first of two public forums the committee has scheduled before it makes its recommendation to USC President Andrew Sorensen by the end of September. Sorensen created the committee in July and charged it with gathering information to determine whether a merger of two of USC's biggest colleges would have a positive impact.

"This is like trying to mix water and oil," said Chinese professor Chuck Alber, his body shaking with emotion. "I wonder how

◆ FORUM, SEE PAGE 3



Carolyn Bookter, who knows Frye's grandson, signs the register of "Sarge" Frye during the viewing Thursday night at Dunbar Funeral Home on Devine Street. Frye, a groundskeeper at USC, died Wednesday. The USC baseball field bears his name.

Legendary 'Sarge' Frye's funeral to be held today

BY MICHAEL LAFORGIA
THE GAMECOCK

Mourners paid their last respects to USC groundskeeper and beloved local figure Weldon B. "Sarge" Frye Thursday night at the Dunbar Funeral Home on Devine Street after Frye died from congestive heart failure at

Providence Hospital on Wednesday. He was 90-years-old.

Funeral services will be today at 10 a.m. Burial will follow at Greenlawn Memorial Park on Leesburg Road. The public is invited to attend.

"Sarge Frye was a Carolina legend who touched the lives of countless coaches, students and

staff members alike," USC President Andrew Sorensen said through the media relations office. "His legacy will live on in the hearts and lives of those who knew him."

Frye was born May 7, 1913 in Medon, Tenn. He joined the U.S. Army in 1931 and fought in World War II and the Korean Conflict.

Frye met his wife Ruby while stationed in Alabama. Frye earned two Bronze stars and a Purple Heart before leaving the Army in 1953, when he took over as groundskeeper of USC's athletic facilities.

"If everyone did their job the

◆ FRYE, SEE PAGE 3



The Alcohol Enforcement Team in downtown Columbia received \$200,000 to target underage drinking in areas such as the Vista on Gadsden Street.

Grants to help local police fight underage drinking

BY Z'ANNE COVELL
THE GAMECOCK

Police will be cracking down on underage drinking in downtown Columbia with the help of two grants totaling \$350,000.

The Lexington/Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council of the Behavioral Health Center of the Midlands is expanding its Multi-Jurisdictional Alcohol Enforcement Team into the down-

town Columbia area.

The team's expansion project was made possible through two grants totaling \$350,000 from the Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws initiative.

Officers from the Richland County Sheriff's office, the USC Police Department and the Columbia University Police Department will try to deter underage drinking by using several methods, including party pa-

trials, where officers check out various parties; drivers license checkpoints; community policing; casual contacts, where officers randomly check bars and restaurants; and compliance checks of locations that sell alcoholic beverages.

"The grants allow us to dedicate a certain number of officers each week and pay them overtime,

◆ EXPANSION, SEE PAGE 3

USC earns nanoscience funds

BY ALEXIS STRATTON
THE GAMECOCK

The National Science Foundation has awarded the University of South Carolina a \$1.3 million grant to study the societal and ethical implications of nanoscience.

The grant will fund a multi-departmental research team made up of 18 faculty members and led by philosophy department chairman Davis Baird.

"Our aim is to work with sci-

entists and engineers who are developing this new science in order to understand this new technology and the social changes it will bring about," Baird said in a news release. "Together we want to address the societal implication of this emerging science so we can accurately convey to the public how nanotechnology may change society."

The four-year grant will examine the consequences that nanotechnology brings and will

address how nanoscience, which seeks to make technology smaller, should be communicated from the scientific field to the public.

Harris Pastides, dean of USC's Arnold School of Public Health and interim vice president for research, said in a news release that not only will this project help researchers find valuable information regarding nanotechnology but that it will bring more attention to USC's NanoCenter, making it a nation-

al leader in the field.

"This award demonstrates that USC is becoming a national leader in answering questions that society is posing about what nanoscale technology will mean in our everyday lives," Pastides said.

The grant comes just over two years after the university founded its NanoCenter in June 2001.

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

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Weather

TODAY		TOMORROW	
High 84	Low 67	High 85	Low 64

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