

## USC to launch exchange program

BY JULIE LEDBETTER  
THE GAMECOCK

USC and South Carolina State University are preparing to start an exchange program in Fall 2004 for the universities' nuclear engineering faculty and students.

USC President Andrew Sorensen and S.C. State President Andrew Hugine signed an agreement Nov. 24 at the McCutchen House on the Horseshoe.

As part of this new agreement, USC will send faculty to S.C. State's Orangeburg campus to teach undergraduate students. S.C. State will send three faculty members to USC as well as students who will study in the master's and doctoral programs in nuclear engineering.

Two years ago, USC started preparing a graduate and doctorate program in nuclear engineering that began this year. USC has 22 students enrolled in these programs, which are offered within the mechanical engineering department.

About the same time, S.C. State was starting an undergraduate program in nuclear engineering; now, 12 students are enrolled. James Anderson, head of S.C. State's engineering program, said the school plans to add five students per year to the program.

Both schools started the programs this fall after getting approval from the S.C. Commission on Higher Education earlier this year. USC and S.C. State are the only two South Carolina schools

offering nuclear engineering programs.

USC and S.C. State leaders say this program will benefit both schools, South Carolina and nuclear engineering altogether.

"This is indeed a significant day, not only for the University of South Carolina, but also for South Carolina State University and the nuclear power industry not only in this state but throughout the nation," Sorensen said.

Sorensen said there is a shortage of minorities in all engineering fields, especially in nuclear engineering. This agreement, he said, will help remedy the deficit and make the most of the schools' resources.

"Ensuring that minority students have access to the

University of South Carolina's programs is an institutional priority," Sorensen said.

Hugine said students from both schools will benefit from this exchange. "Students will benefit and have the opportunity for a complete education in nuclear engineering beginning at the baccalaureate level and all the way through the doctoral level," Hugine said.

"This collaboration builds on the resources and academic strengths of our universities to educate a new generation of nuclear engineers," he added. "The exchange of faculty will ensure that students at USC and S.C. State are taught by some of the best teachers in this field."

The agreement will benefit the



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[www.me.sc.edu](http://www.me.sc.edu)

nuclear-engineering industry in many ways. There is a growing need for nuclear engineers throughout the nation and in South Carolina as well. More than half of South Carolina's electric power comes from nuclear power. Eleven power plants in South Carolina provide more than 10 percent of the nuclear electricity generated throughout the nation.

Abdel Bayoumi, chairman of the mechanical engineering pro-

gram, said South Carolina needs qualified engineers.

"Nuclear engineering, especially nuclear electric power generations, is experiencing a rebirth," says Bayoumi. "Our goal is to educate engineers who will be able to develop and manage the resurgent nuclear industry in research, design and operation."

Comments on this story? E-mail [gamecockdesk@hotmail.com](mailto:gamecockdesk@hotmail.com)

## Conference to forecast S.C. economy

BY JON TURNER  
THE GAMECOCK

USC's 23rd annual Economic Outlook Conference will take place today at the Adam's Mark Hotel and will incorporate viewpoints from local and national economic leaders.

The most widely anticipated speaker at the conference is Harvard professor Michael Porter. The conference also will include a panel on economic development that will feature New York financier and USC graduate Darla Moore; S.C. Secretary of Commerce Bob Faith; and Don Herriott, president of Roche Carolina Inc. and chairman of the S.C. Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Porter, the keynote speaker, is considered by some to be the country's leading authority on economic competitiveness. He will present his long-term strategic plan for South Carolina's continued economic growth, "Building the Competitive Advantage of South Carolina: Toward a Shared Economic Vision." His presentation was commissioned by the Palmetto Institute, the S.C. Department of Commerce, the Palmetto Business Forum and the State Chamber of Commerce.

The conference will open with a

presentation by the economists of the Moore School of Business. The panel discussion will follow, and Porter will then give his presentation.

Although the conference and luncheon are open to the public, the \$75 registration ended Saturday. Among the notable guests at the event will be Marilyn Edelho, director of the S.C. Department of Social Services; Pat Mason, co-founder of the Center for Carolina Living; and Fred Monk, president of the S.C. Export Consortium.

In a pamphlet released by the university, Mason predicted that the program would be entertaining as well as informative. "For years this event has been well presented and insightful," he said, "and there's always a good dose of humor thrown in by the panel experts as they field economic questions from the gallery."

"With Harvard's Porter presenting this year, it will be on my calendar circled in red," he said.

Porter is the author of 16 books and over 85 articles, and he holds eight honorary doctorates. His presentation on the subject of South Carolina's economic competitiveness will help shape policy decisions for the coming year.

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## Ex-president gets literary

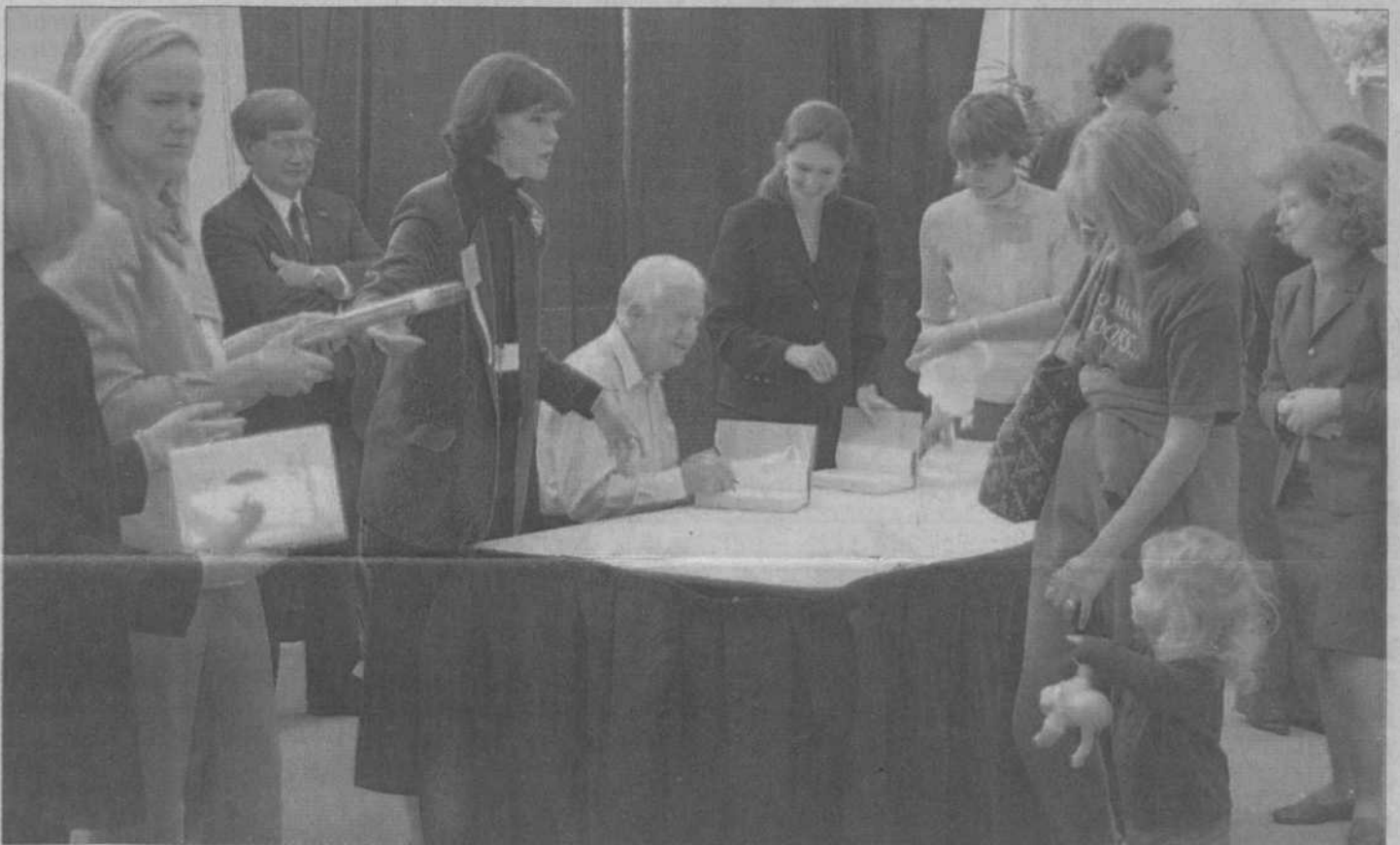


PHOTO BY MORGAN FORD/THE GAMECOCK

Former President Jimmy Carter autographed copies of his books at the Richland County Library on Nov. 24. Many people showed up to get his autograph and to take a picture of the former president signing books.

## Holiday events fill Bush's agenda

BY JENNIFER LOVEN  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Bush is squeezing fund-raising events and traditional holiday celebrations in between a flurry of year-end bill signings this week.

Bush returned to the White House on Sunday after spending the past week at his ranch in Crawford, Texas, and elsewhere, including Thanksgiving with American soldiers at Baghdad Airport in Iraq.

After a quiet weekend on the ranch, both the president and first lady Laura Bush have busy weeks.

First, the Christmas and Hanukkah seasons get underway, a time of dozens of formal receptions at the White House

and traditional holiday appearances.

On Monday, first lady Laura Bush was opening the season by receiving the official White House Christmas tree, an 18 1/2-foot Fraser fir from Wisconsin. It was arriving at the North Portico in a horse-drawn wagon and was to be carried to the executive mansion's Blue Room.

She is to preview holiday decorations throughout the White House's public rooms on Thursday. That evening, the Bushes light the national Christmas tree on the Ellipse south of the White House during an outdoor variety show that begins the monthlong "Pageant of Peace" on the National Mall.

With those holiday obligations and more about to crimp Bush's travel schedule for the rest of the

month, he also will step up his fund raising for his re-election. Scheduled for the week are four sessions with wealthy Republican donors in as many states.

On Monday, Bush was heading to Michigan for a fund-raising lunch in Dearborn, followed by an evening reception in Whippany, N.J. The week's other fund-raisers are Tuesday in Pittsburgh and Friday in Baltimore.

The Dearborn and Baltimore events are paired with official appearances by the president to talk about the economy, which White House political advisers hope will help ensure Bush's re-election.

As for bill signings, the president on Tuesday is to sign legislation that extends a program giving federal bonuses to states that

increase the number of adoptions from foster care.

On Wednesday, a motorcade takes the president a few blocks to the Agriculture Department where he will sign a bill to reduce the risk of fire in national forests.

Though the bill resembles Bush's "Healthy Forests Initiative" that he proposed in August 2002, the final version passed in Congress was a compromise that focuses much of the wildfire prevention effort on areas near houses and towns.

Like Bush's plan, the legislation will streamline approval for projects to facilitate thinning of overgrown forests. Critics call that a giveaway to the timber industry that will limit public participation and put old-growth trees and remote forest areas at risk of logging.

## Christmas in Columbia

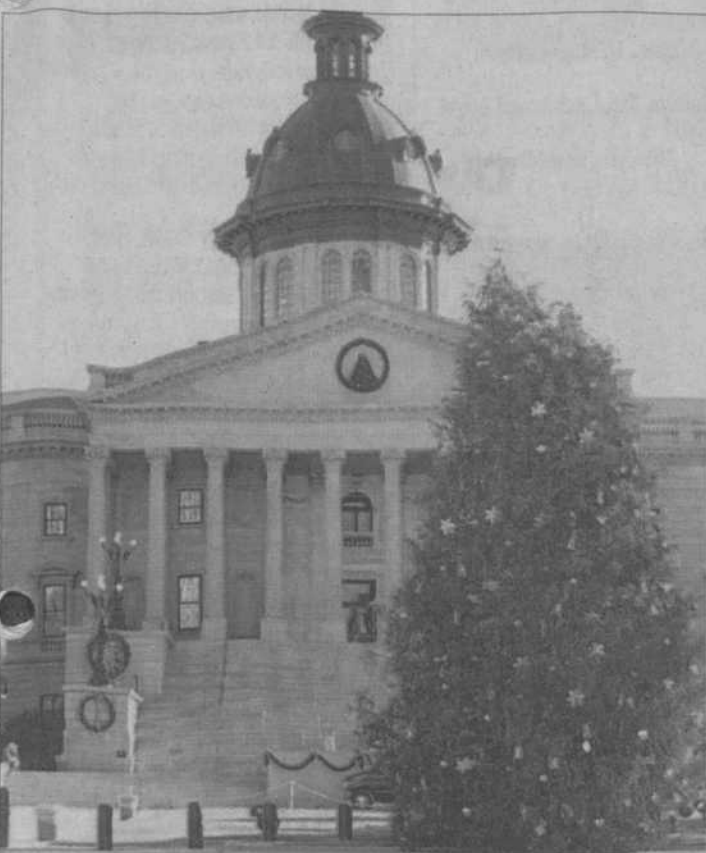


PHOTO BY MORGAN FORD/THE GAMECOCK

A Christmas tree decorates the front of the State House.

## 77 U.S. soldiers died in November

BY ROBERT BURNS  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — November was the deadliest month yet for the American military in Iraq. Seventy-seven U.S. servicemen and women have died — compared with 73 in the previous two months combined.

Including six Americans killed in Afghanistan, November was the most costly

month for the military since February 1991, when 162 U.S. troops were killed in the climax of the first Gulf War.

Helicopter crashes on Nov. 2, 7 and 15 killed a total of 39 soldiers. Before last month, the insurgency had scant success in targeting U.S. helicopters or other aircraft.


Coincidentally, five of the six

♦ IRAQ, SEE PAGE 3

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### Weather

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