

THE GAMECOCK

Welcome Back

University of South Carolina
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MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2004

Vol. 97, No. 1
Since 19

Sorensen plans for new year

BY KEVIN FELLNER
THE GAMECOCK

USC President Andrew Sorensen has negotiations with research campus planners and state legislators — as well as plenty of travel — to look forward to in the coming year and appears to be motivated by all of them, although he can't say the same about the health of the state's economy.

Sorensen said the research campus initiative is moving along with successes such as the formation of the USC Research Campus Foundation in December and a groundbreaking planned for early spring for the building of two research facilities on Assembly

Street across from the Strom Thurmond Wellness and Fitness Center.

The foundation is aimed at bringing together people like lawyers and developers to move the process along. A director and governing board for the foundation have not been named yet.

Sorensen said this step is necessary to move the process faster than state agencies, including USC, have the legal capacity to do.

"You have to be able to move more quickly than state bureaucracies typically do," he said, noting that corporations looking to partner with the university typically won't wait two years while the state moves the proposal

through the required processes.

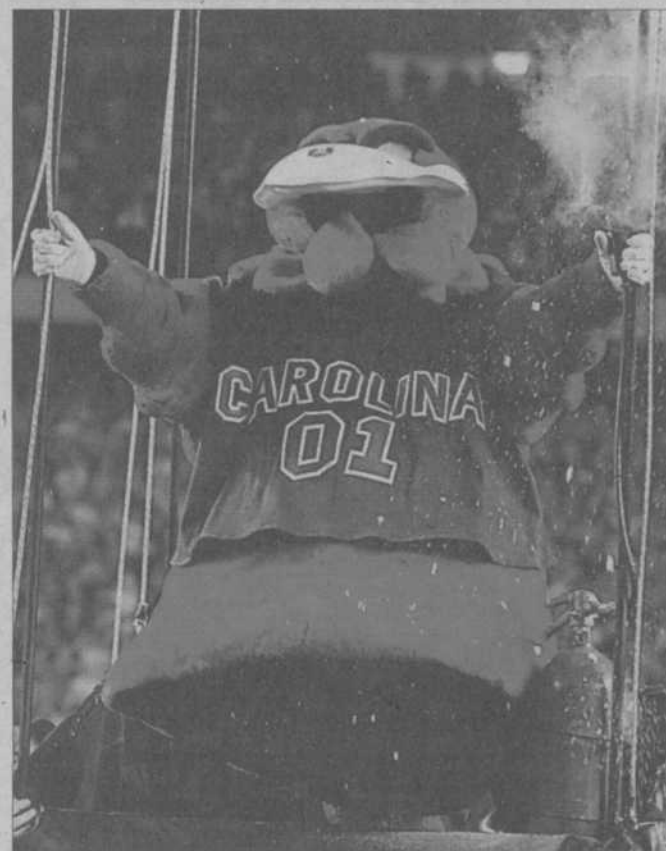
Sorensen is also supporting a bill the university helped lobby for that would free the university from the state procurement code. The bill could be acted upon as early as the first week of the state Legislature's session later this month. The procurement code states that a private corporation can't develop property owned by the state, as would be necessary to achieve the university's vision of public-private partnerships on the proposed research campus.

Sorensen said the bill, like the forming of the foundation, would be in the interest of moving the

◆ SORENSEN, SEE PAGE 4

Sorensen's priorities for the new year:

- ◆ Raising faculty salaries
- ◆ Further developing research campus
- ◆ Visiting communities in South Carolina
- ◆ Working with the state Legislature to gain more autonomy
- ◆ Fill all dean vacancies
- ◆ Increase interdisciplinary cooperation.



FILE PHOTO BY JOHNNY HAYNES/THE GAMECOCK

Cocky's win was based on both popular vote and judging.

Despite third place in poll, Cocky wins Mascot of the Year

BY TRICIA RIDGWAY
THE GAMECOCK

USC proved to the rest of the country what Carolina fans already knew — as far as mascots are concerned, Cocky is a cut above the rest.

The lovable rooster was named Capital One National Mascot of the Year on Jan. 1 at the Capital One Bowl in Orlando, Fla. Cocky's victory came from popular votes and rankings by a panel of five judges. Students and fans cast nearly 4.6 million votes at capi-

talonebowl.com between Sept. 4 and Dec. 22. Cocky earned 18.1 percent of the popular vote, putting him behind Aubie, the tiger from Auburn University, with 23.8 percent, and Ohio State's Brutus Buckeye with 34 percent.

Laura Aboyan, a third-year public relations student and member of the color guard, said she voted online every day and was excited when she heard Cocky won.

"I really think that he deserved to win because of how devoted he is to USC. He never los-

es his sense of school spirit. Even when we were losing football games, he did his best to keep the crowd interested and pumped up," she said.

The judges evaluated the mascots' ability to excite fans, sportsmanship, originality, professionalism and community service involvement. Despite tough competition, Cocky stood out to the judges.

"As far as getting a college football crowd psyched for a big game, he's right up there with 2003 Heisman winner Janson White in our book."

PAM GIRARDO
CAPITAL ONE MASCOT SPOKESWOMAN

Pam Girardo in a news release said the announcement during the bowl game was brief.

"The announcement only lasted about two minutes. It was such a big deal on campus, it never crossed my mind that it wasn't a big deal everywhere else," said Jacqui O'Neill, a third-year studio art student.

Twelve mascots selected members of the All-American Mascot Team competed again

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Manifest Closing

Students lose popular music store

BY ALEXIS STRATTON
THE GAMECOCK

After 19 years, Manifest Discs & Tapes will be closing, leaving fewer options for students seeking music from independent or local artists, used CDs and other music paraphernalia.

The independent music store chain was opened in February 1985 by owner and president Carl Singmaster, and it has since spread across the Carolinas. With the discontinuation of singles, rising CD prices and music downloading, four of the five Manifest stores will be closed by March. The Charleston store will remain open under new ownership.

At the Columbia store, located at Boozer Shopping Center on the corner of Broad River and Bush River roads, some students lamented the store's closing.

Rachal Hatton, a third-year women's studies student and WUSC DJ, said she was sad Manifest is going out of business.

Hatton, who shops at Manifest regularly, said she goes to Manifest before other stores, because it offers the best selection of independent music.

"A lot of people aren't into independent music and an independent store," which might have contributed to Manifest's closing, she said. Hatton said those who prefer independent music, like some WUSC DJs, "don't have anywhere to go now."

Local high school students Chris Davis and Joel Duke said they shop at Manifest because it has a larger CD selection and is not as expensive as other stores.

"They have CDs you can't find at other places, mainly ones that don't have big record labels behind [them]," Duke said. He also



PHOTO BY MORGAN FORD/THE GAMECOCK

Customers check out the selection at Manifest Music on Bush River and Broad River roads. Four of the five Manifest locations in the Carolinas, including this one, will be closed by March.

said he didn't understand why Manifest was closing, because "people are in here all the time."

Davis said he thinks students might have contributed to

Manifest's decline because "a lot of people are shopping on the Internet more than here."

Joe Maxim, a first-year graduate accounting student at USC,

said he went to Manifest recently to look for some older albums he thought he could find in the used

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USC plans for merger by observing schools, searching for dean

BY KEVIN FELLNER
THE GAMECOCK

University administrators are searching for a dean to lead the new College of Arts and Sciences, the result of a merger between the two largest colleges expected later this year.

The Board of Trustees approved in December the merger of the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Science and Mathematics to become the College of Arts and Sciences, to create by far the university's

largest college.

Administrators say out of USC's estimated 20 peer institutions, which are those universities with similar demographics and academic programs, all of them have arts and sciences integrated in a single college.

"It's quite atypical to have them split like this. So when the dean of liberal arts retired, I said to myself let's take a look at this," Sorensen said, noting that he consulted with administrators from both colleges and former USC President John Palms.

"It's quite atypical to have them split like this. So when the dean of liberal arts retired, I said to myself let's take a look at this."

ANDREW SORENSEN
USC PRESIDENT

"It's a very common and very traditional way of organizing those academic operations," said John Skvoretz, interim dean of the

College of Liberal Arts. He replaced Joan Stewart, who left the university last summer.

Sorensen formed a committee to study how integrated arts and sciences programs work at similar universities and how successful a merger might be at USC. The committee was comprised of faculty members and administrators from both colleges. Sorensen said he personally held more than four hours of meetings to discuss the potential merger directly with faculty members.

"I had a huge amount of discussion about this on campus, and in the end I agreed with the recommendation that they should be merged," Sorensen said.

Skvoretz said he felt it was a very open process that had to weather some criticism along the way.

"There have been reservations among some faculty members," he said. "Those reservations have been aired, and everyone is ready to go forward."

Liberal Arts is the largest col-

lege on campus and Science and Math is the fourth largest. The merger would foster Sorensen's push for a more interdisciplinary mentality on campus, especially concerning research.

Some faculty members initially questioned whether a merger would reduce emphasis on a particular department's achievements.

"Disciplines hold their individual work," Skvoretz said. "You can't have interdisciplinary

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What's Inside

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but it's still good. **FOR MORE SEE PAGE 17**

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Weather

TODAY		TUESDAY	
High	61	High	63
Low	35	Low	35
Sunny to partly cloudy, breezy		Winds about 10 mph, Warm	

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