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Shopping with the parents

By MARIA CHARLES THE GAMECOCK

Five weeks into the semester, many students are happy to have their parents visit and experience a taste of campus life during Parents Weekend. Many are also happy because the stockpile of supplies their parents sent with them to school has been wearing thin. The season is changing as well, which means shopping is in order.

Take-time not only to let your parents learn about USC but to show them all the diverse shopping Columbia has to offer as well.

Located less than a mile from the middle of campus, Five Points is the "heart of Columbia culture for college students, young professionals, families and senior citizens," according to the Five Points Association Web site. Once a rotating circle for streetcars, Five Points now offers an array of boutiques, art and music stores to choose from. Looking for classy-chic dresses, skirts and tops? Go to Luna on Saluda Avenue. For a more earthy and vintage look, trayel down the street to Loose Lucy's. Five Points also has "Columbia's No. 1 Consignment Shop," Revente. Check out Papa Jazz on Greene Street for new and used CDs, LPs and jazz classics. For any last minute tailgating

items or a fresh stock of food and toiletries, Food Lion and Eckerd are on Harden Street.

Fewer than five miles from campus, Richland Mall is located at 3400 Forest Drive. Its stores

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include Belk, Parisian, Barnes and Noble Booksellers, Express, Sam Goody and Mastercuts. Regal Cinemas is situated on the top floor of the parking deck.

For one-stop shopping, Harbison Boulevard is the best bet. Off of Interstate 26, the Harbison exit is the stretch of road that has it all. Wal-Mart, Best Buy, Target, Old Navy and Publix are just some of the shopping options. Columbiana Centre is also off Harbison on Columbiana Circle. This mall has more than 100 specialty stores. Dillard's, Belk, Parisian, Sears, Abercrombie and Fitch, Limited, Gap, Hollister, Williams-Sonoma and Banana Republic are among the choices.

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