Social Work, SG team up to laud work-study students

Albany Gault

THE GAMEGOCK

The Department of Social Work has partnered with Student Government to show appreciation for desk assistants and work-study students.

The affair will be held at Thornwell 111 Friday from noon until 2 p.m., offering pizza and refreshments to

work-study students. SG officials said the gathering is to show workdoing a great job.

the International Social Work Students Association because the people in social work are in charge of improving programs for the well being of everybody. We feel this partnership will help us to create more programs to improve the student life at USC," said Vivian Castro, international director of the Division of Student Affairs and graduate student.

SG encourages the study students that they are college's administrators to do similar events at least once a gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu

"We are partnering with year and expand it beyond full-time employees.

Veronica Castro, treasurer of the International Social Work Student Association and graduate student, said it is important to recognize and appreciate workstudy students because if they are happy with their environment they will give 100 percent.

Castro is also a candidate for senator in the College of Social Work.

Comments on this story? E-mail

For profiles of Student Government election candidates, be sure to log on to www.dailygamecock.com through Tuesday.

THE GAMECOCK

LOADS • CONTINUED FROM I

to take advantage of the law... . There were abuses in the system," she said.

savings from curtailing these abuses were used to great the new grants.

"We were able to take some of those savings... and reinvest them in SMART and Academic Competitiveness grants," Baker said.

Academic Competitiveness grants are designed to give incoming freshman \$750 if they took a rigorous curriculum in high school, and \$1,350 in their sophomore year if they maintain a 3.0.

A student interest group, the State Public Interest Research Groups' Higher Education Project, says that while the new grants are extremely beneficial to low-income students, other stipulations will hurt students in the long run.

According to the Higher

eliminating certain windfall cuts. profits in the lending industry.

In a radically simplified scenario, a loan company Baker said \$4 billion in receives federal subsidies in exchange for lending students money. The company is guaranteed a "Special Allowance Payment" from students based on an interest rate.

> If the interest rate for students varies, and a student pays back more money than a loan company expects to receive based on the SAP, the loan company can keep the excess money as a profit.

The Deficit Reduction Act requires loan companies to return that money to the federal government instead.

This \$13 billion in saved subsidies makes the SMART and AC grants possible, but PIRG says more of those savings should go to needy students, rather than the \$4 billion earmarked to fund the grants.

Education Project, the that most of the \$13 billion savings generated by not reinvested in grants will

As for interest rates on loans, an older law will fix student rates lower than they have been able to vary in the past few years.

Students now pay back agreement made in 2001 mandates that all new loans taken out by students in 2006 and beyond will have to be paid back at a fixed interest rate of 6.8 percent, eliminating the risk of higher interest rates.

However, PIRG contends Act hurts a student's parents said. by raising the interest rate for parent student loans to 8.5 percent.

Regardless of the loan rate hike, PIRG lauded the bill for helping lower-income students in various ways.

The bill increases loan limits for freshman, students, as well as lowers PIRG said in a statement the fee students pay when beginning a loan until 2010, when the fee will Congress come from be used to pay for new tax be eliminated completely.

The bill also expands loan forgiveness for education students if they agree to teach math, science, and special needs in highpoverty areas.

Baker said the Department their loans on a variable of Education will be given interest rate, which is the task of fleshing out capped at 8.25 percent. An requirements and other details of the bill, with the hopes of implementing SMART grants by the fall of this year.

"The Secretary of Education will decide which languages will be deemed critical to national security. My hunch is Spanish will that the Deficit Reduction not be one of them," Baker

The House vote was a squeaker: 216-214, mostly because included in the, bill, which will cut out \$39 billion from the federal budget over five years, were withdrawals from subsidies in Medicare and Medicaid. The Senate version of the sophomore, and graduate act, passed last November, did so by a similarly small margin of 52-47.

> Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu



Store Hours: Mon - Fri, 9 - 6 Saturday, 10-6

All Sales Final • No Refunds • Small Charge for Alterations • Shoes Excluded



LOURIES For business. For pleasure. For life. 1601 Main Street • 765-9200

RHA • CONTINUED FROM I

There was much debate among senators about r. effective.

Some senators believed resident advisers would have the new policy would allow more complicated schedules too much freedom and allow to manage, while others things to get out of hand, No Frills Conference at

thought it would not change while others countered the University of West anything at all.

take the roommate contracts Other senators believed that comedian Ty Barnett on whether the roommate seriously," said Jack Ellis, the new policy would not contracts would be a second-year business change much at all. administration student.

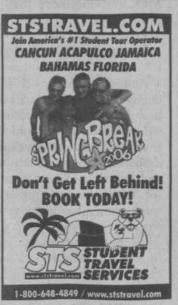
that an RA's responsibility "Some people may not was to handle those issues.

Also at the meeting, KHA Some senators thought passed a \$664 financial allocation for five delegates from USC to attend the

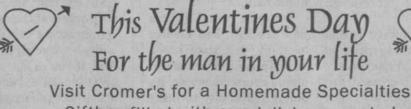
Georgia.

RHA will present Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. in the Russell House Ballroom.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu





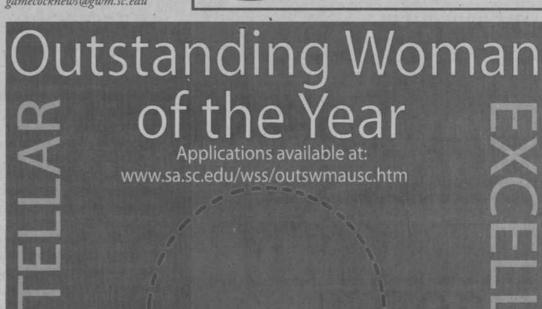


Giftbox filled with our delicious roasted peanuts, butter popcorn, caramel corn, cheese corn, or create your own Gift Basket with our yummy treats. Balloon bouquets & Valentine Decorations are also available.



Since 1935.... Guaranteed Worst in Town Behind Williams Brice Stadium 1055 Berea Rd. Columbia, SC 29201

803-779-2290 www.cromers.com



Women's Student Services sponsors this award that recognizes an undergraduate woman who has 60 credits or more and at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA. Consideration for this award is based on performing arts,

campus involvment, student media, athletics, community involvement/service, and work experience.

All applications due by 5pm February 17th

Questions? Contact us at: 777-8165 or wss@gwm.sc.edu