SG to research uniform grading scale

Current system allows professors to set standards at own discretion

Sarah Ellis
dailygamecock.com

The possibility of implementing a university-wide uniform grading scale is currently being researched as a Student Government Association initiative.

Officers have submitted a request to the American Student Government Association to research uniform grading scale to set standards at own discretion. Current system allows professors to set consistent standards for grades among all classes. For instance, grades ranging from 90 to 100 would be an ‘A’ in any class.

For now, the idea is in its infancy. But the goal behind researching and assessing USC’s current grading system is affecting many students at USC. For instance, grades ranging from 90 to 100 would be an ‘A’ in any class.

SG's uniform grading scale could aim to make grades comparable across all classes. For instance, grades ranging from 90 to 100 would be an ‘A’ in any class.

It’s just making sure that an ‘A’ in the business school is the same thing as an ‘A’ in the engineering school — making sure that everyone’s GPA is reflected the same across the board,” Hane said.

Depending on the results of the information gathered from other universities, any further SG discussions or proposals will work with and go through university administration. However, Vice President and Pre-Graduate Student Studies Helen Doerpinghaus said she does not foresee any significant benefit that could be offered by a uniform grading scale.

Gun fired near campus

Thursday morning

Hookah Bar bouncer turns away armed man, hears multiple shots

Thad Moore
TMOORE@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Witnesses heard gunshots fired near the Horseradish early Thursday morning, according to an incident report.

At around 1:40 a.m., a group of three men walked up to the 805 Hookah Bar & Lounge and tried to enter, when a bouncer noticed it and had a handgun tucked in the waistband of his pants, according to the report. The bouncer turned him away. He “screamed,” the report said, and walked away, toward the back of USC’s James F. Byrnes Building, which is on the corner of Sumter and College streets.

A few minutes later, the bouncer heard multiple gunshots, according to the report. The suspect is described in the report only as a black male with black hair and brown eyes. In a responding officer didn’t find any shell casings, Columbia police spokeswoman Jennifer Timmons wrote in an email response, and the department is still investigating.

The alleged shooting wasn’t the first incident involving guns in the area this year.

In July, a man broke out at the 805 Hookah Bar and spilled semen onto the street, when a suspect shot another man in the calf. Less than two weeks later, a man allegedly robbed a victim at gunpoint in the parking lot behind the Byrnes Building.

The possibility of USC’s campus has been in the spotlight this semester, featuring a spate of highly publicized incidents. In September, Columbia police officials said they’re ramp up their efforts to build and make more contacts with people in the area.

People with information about Thursday morning’s incident are asked to call 1-888-274-CRIME (274-2763) or Crimestoppers at 1-888-274-6372 (CRIME-SC) .

Weather

Friday

SANDY HITS HOME

USC students show support for those affected by Hurricane Sandy destruction

Evan D. Satti
ESATTI@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Hurricane Sandy may seem like a foreign disaster, but its destruction is affecting many students at USC.

Spencer Nelson, a second-year business management student, recalls the moment when he discovered that his friend’s house had burned down. “She and her family… only got out about 15 minutes before their house went up in flames,” Nelson said.

His friend’s house was one of many in Breezy Point, a neighborhood located a few miles down the road.

New Jersey, the state that suffered the most damage from Hurricane Sandy, is the fifth largest feeder state to USC.

More than 100 homes burned to the ground in Breezy Point in New York City. There are at least 90 and counting hurricane-related deaths.

Gamecock donations for the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund are being accepted online at americanredcross.org/usc-fulfill by credit and debit cards and Carolina Card.

“Thirty-five percent of students here at Carolina are from New Jersey,” Nelson said. “New Jersey, which was the worst hit, is the fifth-largest feeder state to USC. What breaks my heart is that Thanksgiving is coming up… and now a lot of students do not have homes to go back to.”

The American Red Cross is working around the clock to provide those affected by Hurricane Sandy with disaster relief. Many of whom are still sleeping in shelters.

Courtney Melendez, a major gifts officer for the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, spoke about his book in the Russell House Ballroom Thursday night.

Zombie Survival Guide

Max Brooks

Climate change

Columbia School of Nursing student Cocoa Stseller says recent turbulent weather in the North is evidence of global climate change.

Shaw responds

After being benched in the second half two weeks ago, the quarterback came back with a career-best performance.

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CRIME-SC
Current knowledge is not enough for novices to understand and enjoy. It takes at least 18 minutes to help hold the audience's attention online, Wilkinson said. All speeches are limited to "ideas worth spreading," according to local event chair John Wilkinson. TED is comprised of "all kinds of people" and is not "a fixed scale," she added. "We need to change?" Hane said. "And from there we can say, 'Well, do we think we can improve this system?' And if not, then maybe we're doing the right thing."

"When you're talking about nonprofits, you have to be careful about what you're doing, well, are we doing the right thing, or do we need to change?"

"We were very impressed with Chase," Wilkinson said. "He's an incredible individual, and we're looking forward to hearing him speak January 28. We're pulling some of the most influential people in the Midlands." Wilkinson emphasized his belief in the importance of establishing every organization on a solid foundation, and for "a wide variety of people of all backgrounds to be involved." Everyone will be really impressed with the range of work and great talent from the Midlands area," Wilkinson said.

"I don't think it would make grading uniform across classes. There are a lot of factors that go into a grade. For example, faculty may curve grades (or offer extra credit). There's some latitude there," Doerpinghaus said. "It really depends on subject matter and has never heard any discussion of such scales among peer schools with uniform grading scales and has never heard any discussion of such scales among peer schools."

"Having a fixed scale would not mean more "A's" or less "F's." Wilkinson said. "We want to expose people to something they may otherwise never have the opportunity to experience or learn about."

"Our goal is to create a day of learning and new ideas," Wilkinson said. "We want to expose people to something they may otherwise never have the opportunity to experience or learn about."

"Everyone will focus his speech on his food donation program Second Servings and how people can combine entrepreneurship and philanthropy to create a successful business that lends a hand to those who are struggling. Interviews to speak at TEDx typically start with candidates outlining their ideas, but Mizzell was in the dark on this when he sat down in the Tuesday afternoon to interview. "I had no idea what I'd be nominated for or what I was supposed to say," Mizzell said. "I was sitting there thinking and trying to figure out what someone would want me to speak on. They told me to talk about the facet in my life that I would enjoy speaking on for the long, so I just started talking about how Second Servings formed."

"I've seen and heard speeches that have ultimately been selected for one of 400 seats at the event," Wilkinson said. "He's an incredible individual, and we're looking forward to hearing him speak January 28. We're pulling some of the most influential people in the Midlands."

Comments on this story? Val@dailygamecock.com/sports
You May Not Have this Opportunity Again

Employees of the Mast Store can share their favorite benefit—their employee discount—twice each year. Friends and family can purchase up to 4 items at 25% OFF on either Sunday, November 4th or Monday, November 5th. (Some exclusions apply, including Patagonia.)

We never advertise this semi-annual sale, but we’re making an exception so we can ensure that all of our new friends in Columbia are added to our invite list. Just add your name to our e-mail list to learn about future sales and events during your visit to the store or online at MastStore.com.

Mast Store will never sell or share your personal information.

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On Sunday, Nov. 4th & Monday, Nov. 5th 2012, the Bearer of This Card is Entitled to My Employee Discount of 25% OFF on Up To 4 Regularly-Priced Items.

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CONTINUED FROM 1

Nelson is working with the American Red Cross and various organizations on campus to raise awareness for victims of Hurricane Sandy. Together they have created the “Gamecocks Sandstorm for Sandy,” a fundraiser that will raise money for the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. The event will be held today from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of Russell House and will accept cash donations and Carolina Cash.

In addition to accepting donations, “Gamecocks Sandstorm for Sandy” will feature posters for individuals to sign and show their support. These posters will be displayed in the Mason Jar, a restaurant in New York City owned by a USC alumnus, which, along with rest of Lower Manhattan, is currently without power.

Everyone in the Tri-State area goes (there) to watch the game on football weekends,” Nelson said fondly.

Nelson has also developed a Gamecock themed microsite with the American Red Cross that is currently accepting donations by credit and debit card and Carolina Card.

The donations will go to further support the Disaster Relief Fund. The site should became operational Thursday evening.

“It’s important that we stand by our fellow Gamecocks here and show our support,” Nelson said.

Comments on this story? Visit dailygamecock.com/news

SANDY ● Continued from 1

Columbia.

“Even though we’re 700 miles away from this storm, we still have ties up there,” Melendez said.

In addition to those volunteers, the American Red Cross deployed 200 emergency response vehicles, 10 trailers of bulk distribution items and 12 mobile kitchens with the capacity to cook 200,000 meals.

“The most heart-trenching thing is that we’re just starting to see how bad it really is,” Melendez said.

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Breezy Point, a neighborhood in Queens, New York City, suffered severe damage.

THE SAILING CLUB TAPS THAT APP!

The Sailing Club! This app allows anyone interested in sailing. We’re open to sailors of all ages and experience as well as those who haven’t experienced the excitement of sailing yet.

COME AND CHECK US OUT!
Anyone is welcome! Our meetings are the second Sunday of every month at 6:00 p.m. We regularly schedule sailing sessions and participate in racing on Lake Murray.

For more info, email us:
socast@wsmail.sc.edu

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2012 HOMECOMING
Schedule of Events

Sunday, November 4th
Dance Marathon ft5k 9:00am Blatt

Monday, November 5th
Kickoff Event 11:00 am – 2:00 pm Greene Street
Spurs’ and Struts’ 8:00 pm Greene Street

Tuesday November 6th
Showcase 7:00 pm Carolina Coliseum

Wednesday, November 7
Canned Creations 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Greene Street
Float Building 8:00 pm – 11:00 pm Greene Street Intramural Field

Thursday, November 8
Cockfest Pep Rally and Concert 8:00 pm Greene Street & Russell House
Featuring Elliot Root
Rave and free late night dining to first 1,000 students after

Friday, November 9
Float Building 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Greene Street Intramural Field
Parade 3:00 pm Greene Street
Stepshow 7:00 pm Carolina Coliseum

Saturday, November 10
Homecoming Game: USC vs. Arkansas
Williams Brice Stadium

SEE YOU NEXT WEEK FOR HOMECOMING!

Follow @USCHomecoming Free prizes given out at some events!
USC should implement uniform grading scale

“Students should know with certainty what an ‘A’ means in every class. A 4.0 GPA should mean the same thing to everyone.”

However, regardless of the grading systems used across the country, students still believe USC should consider implementing a uniform scale. Students should know with certainty what an A, B, C, D, or F means, without having to encounter many surprises on their grade reports. USC is not alone in this movement because of similarities in standards. A 4.0 GPA is used across the board at a majority of universities.

Due to several different science and engineering classes have grading scales set by the professors that follow the guidelines of a 4.0 GPA scale rather than a percentage grading scale because of uniform standards. A 4.0 GPA is used across the board at a majority of universities.

We’ve all had, or have at least heard of, those classes where a ‘B’ is considered an ‘A’ because the professor is easy-going. Conversely, we’ve all heard of those classes where an ‘A’ is considered anything but an ‘A’. Standardizing the grading scale at USC would not only provide logical arguments to back the implementation of such a policy, but also provide guidance to students as to how much to expect from their courses.

The goal of ‘The Daily Gamecock’ is to inform the University of South Carolina community. All opinions are expected to provide logical arguments to back the opinions presented.

The Daily Gamecock encourages reader submissions from three methods of expression: letters to the editor, op-eds and articles. Letters must be 200-300 words in length and include the author’s name, telephone number and address. We also invite student readers and USC faculty members to submit guest columns. Columns submitted should not exceed 100 words in length, do not exceed the size of a line half-column, and do not include the author’s name, telephone number or address.

It’s your right

Correction

If you find an error in today’s edition of ‘The Daily Gamecock’, let us know. Email the corrections to editor@dailygamecock.edu and we will print the corrections in our next issue.
ZOMBIE author Max Brooks performed a straight-faced stand-up comedy routine and talk Friday night in the Russell House Ballroom to a crowd of about 200 people—mostly enthusiastic horror and video game nerds.

Brooks wrote “The Zombie Survival Guide” (2003), a humorous manual on how to stay protected in the event of an undead plague, and “World War Z” (2006), a book of first-person accounts of survivors in the event of an undead plague, and manual on how to stay protected in the event of an undead plague. He talked about how the entertainment world creates dramatic moments in fiction that would not happen in the real world. People should use their brains and logic to survive.

For instance, the most viral commodity during a zombie plague would not be guns but water. Not everyone strikes up a vested interest in zombies, or their apocalypse. And for Brooks, it’s not a love but a fear. “I don’t love zombies. Zombies are scary. Zombies are terrifying. Love zombies? I do not love zombies at all. When I was a kid I lived in fear of them. I wrote this book so I could protect myself from them.”

Brooks said in a preshow interview.

But what about the recent entertainment craze for zombie-themed television shows and movies—does Brooks enjoy the genre?

“In the way you like car crashes,” he said. “There have always beenloads of zombies, and I used to think if there were a zombie plague, what would I do to survive?”

And Brooks’ keys to survival are pretty universal.

“There is nothing zombie-specific about zombie survival,” Brooks said.

Jonathan Winchell
jwinchell@dailygamecock.com

**Film follows super-rich Siegel family**

Documentary adds depth to gaudy luxuries of Westgate Resorts founder

Jonathan Winchell
jwinchell@dailygamecock.com

“The Queen of Versailles”

NOW PLAYING AT THE NICKELODEON

Director: Lauren Greenfield
Stars: Virginia Nebab, David Siegel, Jacqueline Siegel
Rating: PG for thematic elements and language

“The Queen of Versailles” is a fabulously entertaining documentary that provides the guilty pleasure of a reality television show but with depth and substance.

“Queen,” directed by Lauren Greenfield, who won best director at the Sundance Film Festival earlier this year, follows the super-rich Siegel family. The patriarch, David Siegel, is the founder and CEO of Westgate Resorts, the largest timeshare company in the world.

Jacqueline Siegel is his much younger wife and the mother of eight children. As the beginning of the film, the family is doing well financially, and the company is thriving. The Siegels start development on a 90,000-square-foot house, which would be the largest single-family private home in America.

Everything changes when the recession hits. The company takes a nosedive, construction on the 400,000-square-foot house is halted and the family, especially Jacqueline, has to face reality.

The documentary captures some of the family’s immaturity by showing them go about their daily lives. A pet bear connoisseur gets loose in the house, and they try to find it before it eats their pears.

Some of the biggest laughs in the film are glimpses of the Siegels’ hideous family portraits and paintings throughout the house. There is even a clock with a picture of David. His contoured arms are the hands of the clock, and pictures of his wife and children are the numbers.

Jacqueline, or Jackie, is really the star of the film. David tells Jackie she needs to cut down on her spending, but, shortly thereafter, in one horrifyingly funny scene, she buys literally carts of toys into the parking lot and jams the bags of toys into a van. When they get back to the house, in one of the most telling moments of the film, the nanny rolls a new bicycle into a garage with a dozen bicycles lying on the ground.

The film is not all laughs. There are truly moving scenes of the Filipino nanny crying as she shows picture of her children, whom she has not seen in years. Her few possessions are kept in her living quarters, an oversized dollhouse in the Siegels’ yard.

The Siegels are not portrayed as evil and soulless. “He might not realize how overindulgent his lifestyle is now, but she remembers growing up without much. The Siegels are a perfect example of how the entertainment world creates dramatic moments in fiction that would not happen in the real world. People should use their brains and logic to survive.

For instance, the most viral commodity during a zombie plague would not be guns but water. Not everyone strikes up a vested interest in zombies, or their apocalypse. And for Brooks, it’s not a love but a fear. “I don’t love zombies. Zombies are scary. Zombies are terrifying. Love zombies? I do not love zombies at all. When I was a kid I lived in fear of them. I wrote this book so I could protect myself from them.”

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Unedited Content

Friday, November 2, 2012

The Daily Gamecock

Opera at USC stages Mozart play this weekend

Grazie Shepard

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s opera “Don Giovanni” is one of his greatest, as well as one of his darkest. Mozart switched gears from light romantic comedic operas, such as “Cosi Fan Tutte” and “The Marriage of Figaro,” to explore love, hate, deceit and the supernatural in “Don Giovanni.”

This weekend, Opera at USC takes on this great work, providing a classical interpretation with some unique twists. The title character, Don Giovanni, is the epitome of a ladies’ man. His conquests are so numerous his manservant has to keep track of all the women Giovanni has seduced using a diary.

He spends the majority of the opera running from one woman to the next, all while trying to avoid their unhappy fiancés. Like all silver-tongued seducers, Don Giovanni spins a delicate web of deception, playing one girl against the other until they wise up and decide to join together and put Don Giovanni back in his place.

The women in Mozart’s opera are the heart of the piece, standing up for each other in defense of love and justice. Samantha Nahra, a second-year graduate student in opera theater, pointed out that “Don Giovanni” can be considered a “feminist opera” because of the strong female characters who face off against Don Giovanni. The women do not sit idly by in the face of Don Giovanni’s treachery.

“There’s a lot of action in this opera,” said Nahra, whose role as Donna Anna in the production is her biggest to date. While the plot and characters offer plenty to keep the audience and the singers occupied, Mozart’s score is just as captivating. Both the orchestra and the singers are challenged musically.

Marilyn Spruice, a second-year music student, plays violin in the opera orchestra and said that performing “Don Giovanni” is difficult but worthwhile. As an instrumentalist, Spruice said, “It’s fun to work with singers because I don’t usually get to do that in orchestra.”

Jared Ice, who plays the role of Don Giovanni, provides a solid and interesting interpretation of the character throughout the play. He does a great job of making a despicable character likable and creates continuity throughout the opera.

The cast and crew of Opera at USC do an admirable job of paying attention to details and creating an atmosphere for “Don Giovanni.” The set, impressively designed by Colleen Ballance, gives a sense of depth and proportion to the stage and the action during the opera. Don Giovanni” marks one of the first times Opera at USC has used a “raked” stage. Instead of a two-dimensional set, the raked stage is actually sloped down to the front of the stage.

The curtain rises for “Don Giovanni” tonight at 7:30 p.m. In honor of the first performance of Opera at USC’s season, there will also be an opening-night gala catered by the Gourmet Shop after the show.

There will be performances tonight and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are $5 for students, $15 for faculty and $20 for adults.

Comments on this story?

Visit dailygamecock.com/mix

Grace Shepard
MIX@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Octavia Brooks

She won a $50 gift card to Carolina Ale House
Pick up your copy of The Daily Gamecock EVDAY for a chance to win!

We have a WINNER!

Congratulations to Octavia Brooks for winning a $50 gift card to Carolina Ale House.

Samantha Nahra, Jared Ice, Eric Kesler, Maria Beery and Rebecca Wood star in Opera at USC’s performance of “Don Giovanni” this weekend.

(Clockwise from top left) Samantha Nahra, Jared Ice, Eric Kesler, Maria Beery and Rebecca Wood star in Opera at USC’s performance of “Don Giovanni” this weekend.

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WHAT DOES COCKY HAVE IN COMMON WITH THIS GUY?

They both show their spirit!

Have in common

We pour...

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Unedited Content
"There’s nothing you would do to prepare for a zombie plague that you wouldn’t do to prepare for a hurricane. It’s the same stuff. I mean, I think that’s sort of the key. When I was researching ‘Zombie Survival Guide,’ I didn’t watch a lot of zombie movies. I did a lot of real research into real disasters preparedness.

Who would survive the zombie apocalypse? The presidential decision is less than a week away, and Brooks has strong opinions on which candidate would survive the attack.

“Obama. Obama off the charts,” Brooks said. “Romney’s party platform is all about dismantling civilization, dismantling health care, dismantling education, dismantling infrastructure — every man for himself! If you’re weak, you should die.”

Brooks believes Mitt Romney’s zombie handicap extends to a further political problem as well.

“That’s the sort of neo-Republican tea party message, which is like social Darwinism — the weak must perish, every man for himself ... It’s perfect for a zombie plague,” Brooks said.

And, according to Brooks, Romney has the zombie vote.

“Zombies aren’t intelligent, but if they were, oh, they’d be voting for Romney and the tea party. They would be like, ‘Please clear the field for us ‘cause the last thing we want is a coherent civilization that’s ready to stand up to us.’”

Comments on this story?
Visit dailygamecock.com/mix
SAGITTARIUS  
T a k e o n  n e w  r e s p o n s i b i l i t i e s  a n d  g r a s s r o o t  s t r e s s  a r e  v e r y  w e l l  c o n s i d e r e d.  A c c e p t  c o a c h i n g  a n d  p r e s s u r e  w h i t e  o p e n  t o  s e e  v e r y  d i f f e r e n t  v i e w s  o f  t h e  p r o b l e m.  Y o u  m a y  h a v e  m o r e  s t r e s s  t h a n  y o u  t h o u g h t.  L e a v e  y o u r  m i l d  f e e l i n g s  a d d r e s s  v e r y  r e s p o n s i b l e  a n d  s e r i o u s.  A n t i p a t c h  a n y  t i p s  o f  d o u b t.  A n d  c u r t a i l  i m p u l s i v e  a c t i v i t i e s.

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A c k n o w l e d g e  d i s a g r e e m e n t,  a n d  m a y  b e  n e c e s s a r y.  A n t i c i p a t e  t h e  l e a d  i n  s h o w i n g  i n t e n s i t y  a n d  n e e d  f o r  g r a s s r o o t  s t r e s s.  W e a r y  n o t  t o  l o s e  s i t u a t i o n  o f  f u t u r e  d e v e l o p m e n t.  Y o u  m a y  h a v e  t o  e n g a g e  i n  m a n y  s e x u a l  a c t i v i t i e s.

PISCES  
M a k e  i t  a  s o c i a l  e v e n t  o f  c r e a t i v e  p o t e n t i a l.  A d v a n c e  c o n f i d e n t l y,  e v e n  i f  i t  m e a n s  o f f e r i n g  y o u r  t i m e  f r e e l a n c e.  A m o n g  t h e  f l o w  o f  p e o p l e,  y o u  m a y  f i n d  y o u r  o w n  w a y  t o  g r o w  a b i t.  Y o u  m a y  h a v e  t o  b e  c o m f o r t a b l e  w i t h  t h e  t e a m  a n d  m a k e  t h e  r e s p o n s i b i l i t i e s  a g a i n.
Shaw responds after being benched

Quarterback has career game against UT following disappointing play at Florida; Miles committed to helping team as starter

Paulina Berkovich
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A second half spent on the bench may have been exactly what junior quarterback Connor Shaw needed. Following Friday’s matchup against Missouri, the South Carolina team (15-10, 3-10 SEC) hits the road this weekend to take on the SEC’s other Columbia. The Missouri Tigers, who are in their first year as members of the SEC, will host the Gamecocks on Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Both teams have been dealing with adversity in the last couple of weeks. Missouri, which is battling injuries and has lost two matches in a row, stands with a record of 15-8. Despite injuries to key players, Gamecocks look to where everyone else is on the court and play our hearts out,” she said.

Leading the team is senior captain Taylor Bruns. Along with key injuries, the Gamecocks have been suffering a widen two weeks. Their most recent victory came against Missouri State in Starkville, Miss., on Oct. 19.

Redshirt sophomore Cara Howley said that if South Carolina capitalizes on Missouri’s weaknesses, it should win its first conference match in two weeks.

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