University of South Carolina charged with possession of firearms

Walterboro, S.C., was arrested and charged with possession of firearms in handcuffs from a Carolina Alert at USC. The alert said the residence hall in question was Maxcy College residence hall, which is a freshman dormitory. The officer said the resident of the dorm had been found with brass knuckles and five handguns in his room. A search yielded those and the guns — a Smith & Wesson .38, a Taurus .38, a GSG 1911 .22, a handgun and five brass knuckles inside, the report said.

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Trevor Scott Stephens

See page A8

Incident at Maxcy College

Security breach may startles USC community

As recent as 12 years ago, CarolinaCards issued to USC students, faculty and staff had Social Security numbers on them when they were distributed, according to Bill Hogue, USC vice president for technology.

Hogue said USC’s decades-old technology infrastructure is slowly moving away from using Social Security numbers and other detailed personal information to identify USC’s community members. This change, which allows students an option to sign in using their Social Security numbers, and said “specializes in helping companies” to prevent identity theft. He said that “specializes in helping companies” to prevent identity theft. He said that “specializes in helping companies” to prevent identity theft.

Web server that may have compromised the information of USC’s students, faculty and staff is under investigation.

In response, USC has contracted Kroll, a company that “specializes in helping companies” to prevent identity theft.

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The server contained “confidential, personally identifiable information” exposed during an attack.

To ensure student safety. The university is making “dire improvements to residence halls need to be made,” according to a police report released Thursday. The report said that “specializes in helping companies” to prevent identity theft. He said that “specializes in helping companies” to prevent identity theft. He said that “specializes in helping companies” to prevent identity theft.

Forums clarify ticketing process

Ejections, unpaid tuition results in revoked football season passes for students

Kyle Kovachich

Weeks before its first test at Williams-Brice Stadium, USC’s new student ticketing system has raised plenty of questions.

Chief among them: How does it work?

“‘There is no printer in the box office,’” White said. “‘I don’t want students to lose their student ticketing program. Those tickets will be e-mailed to the student and the student will print those tickets out. We want to make sure students have their tickets and paid fees to avoid losing their tickets, though they will get a ‘grace period’ of seven additional days.’

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Moore School dean to step down

ARMS @ A2

After 4 years, Teegen plans yearlong sabbatical

Sydney Patterson

Hilda Teegen, dean of USC’s Darla Moore School of Business, is stepping down, saying she wants to take some time to explore her field.

Teegen will continue at the university as a professor after her sabbatical. Last year, she received $777,250 in pay.

USC President Harris Pastides said Teegen assured him that she was not leaving for a position at another university in a meeting with him and Provost Michael Amiridis.

“She decided for personal and professional reasons that she’s had a good, long stint as dean. She’s had a personal decision on her part to continue her scholarship and to take a sabbatical next year, but to stay on as a highly valued professor,” Pastides said. “It’s not something we wish for, but it is something we have to accept.”

Pastides said the search for a new dean would reach across the country and that he expected the Moore School’s reputation to make the process easier.

“Shes a great leader, but with the great school we have and the great building going up, we are going to do a national search,” he said.

The university has not yet begun considering specific candidates, but Pastides said the process would be very thorough.

“I have no idea and nobody in mind at this point in time,” Pastides said. “She promised that she would stay for as long as possible. She did not have a great deal of interest in a successor.”

Teegen was key in financial planning for the new business building on the corner of Assembly and Greene streets among other initiatives. The Moore School undergraduate international business program has continued to be ranked No. 1 nationally.

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BREACH  Cont. from A1

more than 2,000 files on the College of Education's server, and an analysis of whose identity may have been vulnerable, Hogue said. He blamed the sheer number of files for why USC only began sending letters in those Monday morning.

“The server had over 2,000 files on it. Every one of those files had to be examined,” Hogue said. “Some had sensitive information, some didn’t. Some were compromised, some weren’t.”

He added that the university didn’t want to unnecessarily scare members of its community over files that hadn’t been exposed, and weeding those out also took time.

“We didn’t want to leave anyone out, but we don’t want to scare unnecessarily,” he said.

While thousands were exposed, which files on the server were actually accessed in the breach is not clear, but USC has advised those affected to place fraud alerts on their credit files with major reporting agencies.

Hogue said tracing the origin of the attack was next to impossible and the university was not expected to get resources to attempt what would likely be an unfruitful criminal investigation.

Hogue said, “I definitely wouldn’t expect there were any chance that we could identify anyone who could be held criminally.”

The bright side for the identities might have been exposed: No files have been hacked.

Another factor: The university does not have any history of anyone’s ID being stolen, Hogue said. “That doesn’t make me feel safe, that doesn’t make me secure, that doesn’t make me happy. But we haven’t experienced that to this point.”

“We don’t expect hundreds of people to suddenly see bank accounts drained because of this,” Hogue said.

He added that USC plans to take measures to ensure the university is doing all it can to avoid future attacks.

“We’ll be spending a lot of time and effort (to educate the community) on how to do a better job at preventing,” Hogue said.

The forums appeared to be popular, all but filling the theater Aug. 31.

Edward said, adding that she didn’t know of any other school in the Southeastern Conference that provided students with such an opportunity.

Those tickets can be claimed at any point during the week.

Edward said. That information will be listed in an email to the student body on Aug. 31.

In an email to the student body on Sept. 8 at 12:21 p.m.

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A construction worker was struck on the 700 block of Assembly Street.

USC student arrested following crash with construction worker

Fourth-year charged with felony DUI

A construction worker on Assembly Street was struck early Wednesday morning by a student charged with felony DUI with great bodily injury.

Natalie Nicole Jacobson, 23, was arrested in connection with the incident after she refused field sobriety tests. The worker, a 10-year-old man who hasn't been identified, sustained head injuries after he was hit by a car about 5 a.m. Wednesday, according to an incident report.

The car had driven over traffic cones to get into the construction area, where the man was handling traffic control. The impact lifted him from the ground.

When officers arrived, the man was conscious but didn't respond verbally, he was transported to Richland Memorial Hospital shortly thereafter.

University spokesman Wes Hickman confirmed that Jacobson is enrolled at USC as a fourth-year media arts student. Whether William Reed Pimental, a passenger in the car who was also arrested, was a student or not wasn't immediately clear Wednesday afternoon.

Jacobson had not been released from the Alvin S. Glenn as of Wednesday night.
disabled and will need medical care for the rest of his life.”

Earlier this month, he filed suit against USC, the house’s architect and constructor, Sigma Nu fraternity and its local chapter. Tanenbaum declined further comment, citing the pending lawsuit.

In court filings, Eichorn and his lawyer claim those groups failed to take precautions to prevent such a fall because windows in the house were allowed to open too high. Representatives of each, they say, approved plans that didn’t include window restrictors.

Such restrictors are a key focus of a memo written by Dennis Pruitt, USC’s vice president for student affairs, after a young woman fell from a window in Patterson Hall and died in August 2002.

In that memo, sent in August 2004 and included with the filing, USC established a standard that residence hall windows can’t open more than 10 inches. Under USC’s policy, restrictors can be added to windows on the first few floors of a building.

Jimmy Eichorn, a former USC student and member of Sigma Nu Fraternity, fell from a second-story window of the chapter’s house (above) in February 2010 and is now filing suit against USC.

Well, here’s your chance. The award-winning Daily Gamecock, rated 14th best collegiate paper in the nation by the Princeton Review, is looking for help to assist with directing our new training program starting Fall 2012.

No prior training or journalism experience is required. However, this will be a senior position within The Daily Gamecock organization. This is an incredible opportunity for anyone looking for dynamic professional development while still in college and wanting to be part of a creative and cutting-edge team.

Students should email a resume with contact information to editor@dailygamecock.com. We’re accepting applications now!
Only if it has a sprinkler system. According to court documents, plans for the Sigma Nu house, approved in November 2002, included sprinklers. Those plans were approved by a university review board. Houses in the Greek Village have to follow a list of 17 guidelines set by USC. Those guidelines, included in the initial filing, regulate landscaping, cosmetics and some design aspects of Greek houses, but do not mention their windows.

That’s because USC’s 10-inch standard doesn’t apply to Greek housing, according to university spokesman Wes Hickman, as the buildings aren’t owned by USC, and the specifics of their construction are governed by local building codes.

According to Jerry Brewer, associate vice president for student affairs, that distinction explained, in part, why the university didn’t change its policies in the years following Eichorn’s fall. “It’s not university policy,” Brewer said. “That’s building code.”

Regardless, in a filing last Friday, the university contended through Michael Pauley, an attorney, that it can’t be responsible for Eichorn’s injuries, citing the state Tort Claims Act, which sets the statute of limitations at two years.

Whether USC’s motion to have the case dismissed will be accepted is not yet clear as the lawsuit is pending.

The case’s other defendants had not submitted any filings by Wednesday.

Welcome Back! The Office of Pre-Professional Advising

OFFA is happy to have all new and returning students back on campus! If you are interested in pursuing a pre-professional track such as pre-med, pre-health or pre-law, come visit us!

We are located in Sumwalt Building Room 208 Looking forward to the Fall 2012 Semester!
As the new school year begins in earnest today, freshmen and others are scurrying around campus to find the location of their classes.

That’s why Thomas Gruel, a third-year exercise science student, teamed up with his fraternity, Kappa Upsilon Chi, along with sorority Zeta Sigma Chi, to show students where their classes are being held.

Greeks on Greene, held in front of the Russell House midday Wednesday, showed students where their classes were on a map or took the extra step of walking with them to their building.

It was also a stepping stone for students curious about Fraternity and Sorority Life and rushing an organization outside of the Fraternity Council.

“When I was a freshman, I was pretty confused on where to go to for my classes, so I thought this would be a great opportunity for the fraternity to get involved in helping the student body,” Gruel said.

— Compiled by Morgan Simpson

Members of Zeta Sigma Chi sorority and Kappa Upsilon Chi fraternity helped freshmen Wednesday.

USC Nursing Students: Welcome!

Dean Peggy Hewlett, the faculty and staff send you wishes for a very successful semester as you move forward toward becoming a USC Nurse.
Several LGBT organizations gathered together on the Russell House Patio to welcome incoming LGBT students and their allies to USC. Organizations including BGLSA, YES! and the Harriet Hancock Center were present.
North Carolina voters show ignorance at polls

Amendment One vote maintains conservative Southern tendencies

My summer was fantastic. I began, however, in the middle of the fall term of junior year at USC, and North Carolina became the 21st state to amend its constitution to ban the legal recognition of same-sex marriage. The amendment, known in North Carolina as Amendment One, was enacted by a large majority and appears to have been a response to the legalization of same-sex marriage in other states. It was a response to the trend of the nation. It is simply an old-fashioned moral panic that was defied the sanctity of the right to marry and free speech in the constitution of my great state and the right to marry of same-sex couples.

I was appalled by some of the things I heard from voters that day. So few were aware of the implications of the amendment's success, and many refused to listen to me as I calmly made my case. A significant number of voters told me their pastor advised them to vote this way and that was too bad. I felt full of dread ears throughout the country, according to other poll workers with whom I spoke. In fact, I haven't encountered a defense of Amendment One ever since.

There is no occasion in which the majority is ever justifiable in denying rights to a minority group. The law is a product of the government's interpretation of the US constitution, which is based on a certain extent. If Amendment One is a rewriting of the meaning of the us constitution to support a perfectly just cause, it is one that we will use to do more harm than good. Ultimately these things will continue to harm a fundamental right of the state to the right to have a safe place to live.
Country music and cold cans went hand-in-hand as the Tin Roof Tuesday night as everything "got a little sideways" with country singer Dierks Bentley stopping by Columbia’s Tin Roof to give USC students an end-of-the-semester party to remember.

The platinum-selling country artist performed on the bar’s outdoor stage as part of his “Back to College” tour, which features three stops at SEC schools. Bentley has recorded gold and platinum albums as well as 15 singles reaching No. 1 on the Billboard country chart, most of which Bentley performed on stage.

The gates opened around 6 p.m. as the sold-out crowd started filling up the 3,500-capacity parking lot as the sold-out crowd started filling up around 7 p.m. and 97.5’s “The Morning Rush” kicked off the night with a country music mix over the loudspeakers.

Dierks Bentley played Tin Roof Tuesday night on his “Back to College” tour.

Jaren Johnston moved around the stage and rocked to his guitar. Johnston took a few moments in between songs to talk about his friendship with Bentley, who has worked with Johnston inside the recording studio. Johnston currently serves as producer of Bentley’s latest album “Country and Cold Cans.”

After the Cadillac Black left the stage, the crowd showed their love for the band’s music by shouting their name back at the stage.

As the night grew closer to Bentley’s performance, partygoers turned the faces of fans as the sky started pouring out the drinks, but it didn’t matter once Dierks Bentley took the stage and cranked the night away.

Bentley kicked off his performance with some of his latest songs “Country and Cold Cans” to audience members who held their gold and aluminum cans in the air, slapped their hands and waved their arms. Bentleycontinued with crowd favorites “Cash a Beer” and “Am I The Only One.”

“I feel like the bartender that gets you up on stage, sings along and starts pouring out the drinks,” Bentley said while holding up his Solo cup and drinking to the many in attendance.

As the rain fell, Bentley kept the crowd energized as girls took to the tops of guys’ shoulders and guitar picks flew from the stage. The crowd danced and sang along to Bentley’s more vitalizing hits like “Feel That Fire” and “Sideways.” It was but when Bentley performed “Free and Easy (Down the Road I Go)” that the crowd overpowered the rain.

Kiki’s Chicken & Waffles introduces comfort cuisine to capital city

One Belgian waffle covers a plate, with the island-on-grid standing as the only hope to tiding the giant-sized breakfast. Four battered chicken wings meet in the middle, still steaming from the fryer. A syrup dispenser sits nearby, waiting to meld the two together in gooey goodness.

It’s chicken and waffles: a staple of the South and an all-but-healthier comfort food creation. And now, it’s come to Columbia.

Kiki’s Chicken & Waffles, founded by USC alumna Kitwanda Smith, opened on Two Notch Road Saturday. It’s the city’s first chicken and waffles restaurant — following the likes of Gladys Knight’s famous Atlanta locales — but still boast a full Southern-style menu along with the namesake dish.

The restaurant sits in a strip mall off Two Notch, a 20-minute drive for USC students, but it’s been noted: It’s the only chicken and waffle spot in the city.

It’s small but spacious, with a largely open dining area accompanied by traditional table settings and high-top bar tables. Rhythm and blues slow jam, like “Brown Sugar” by D’Angelo, flows through the restaurant with a long green wall decorated with large script “Kiki’s Chicken & Waffles.”

Smith, who graduated USC in 2009 with a marketing degree, personally greets each customer and pulls out a pad of paper to take drink orders. There’s no middle man between the owner and customer — although that could be matched. Smith acknowledges the chicken and waffles specialty at Kiki’s is no way ever to be matched.

Smith herself goes back and forth from the kitchen with refills, coffee creamers and extra napkins.

The chicken and waffles, of course, are the heart of the menu for a cool $9.99. It’s a daunting dish — the fried chicken wings completely veil the fresh-cooked waffle, and a fork and knife really seem to offer no resolve. It’s not pretty, but according to Smith, there is a chicken and waffles etiquette.

First, cut the waffle into bite-sized pieces — again, look to the island-on-grid for a little guidance in the midst of the chicken meal. Get the chicken off the waffle and you’ve got a pretty perfecting piece. It will be a challenge, and it is no way every going to be date food. People actually get up and swap both the chicken and waffles to perfectly prepare, deliciously.”

And Kiki’s authenticity can’t be acknowledged. Smith and Kiki’s Chicken & Waffles specialize at chain restaurants like Bojangles and Lizard’s Thicket, but made one clear
Bentley — although the sing-along was accompanied by a few technical difficulties. The country singer didn’t hesitate to share the attention on stage as he gave shout-outs to his bandmates and invited Johnston to sing some songs from Bentley’s latest album.

Bentley not only performed for attendees in the parking lot area, but also for spectators viewing the concert from their Hilton Columbia Center hotel room windows across the streets. He urged the crowd to wave and the hotel occupants waved back.

Gamecocks and USC students chanted “U-S-C” between songs, but Bentley felt there was another chant that needed to be heard: “U-S-A.” Bentley reminded everybody of the soldiers who have been fighting to defend this country before performing “Home.”

Bentley even took a trip down memory lane for his hard-core fans by performing songs written during the earlier days of his career like “How Am I Gonna Be a Tearin’ Man” and “Ain’t No Fun.”

The concert ended on a high note with Bentley performing the song that started it all, “What Was I Thinkin’?” The crowd sang along to Bentley’s first No. 1 hit while Bentley ran around the stage, interacted with his bandmates and reached out for the girls sitting on shoulders.

Through the rain and the technical difficulties, Bentley’s performance reminded everyone in the crowd that country music is all about having a good time with friends and families.
Joshua Seth performs annual Welcome Week show on campus

Kristyn Wisch
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Joshua Seth does not like to label himself as a hypnotist. “I call myself a psychological illusionist,” Seth said. “Hypnosis is one of the things I do.”

Seth, who performed for a packed Russell House Ballroom at Wednesday’s Carolina Productions show, claimed hypnosis as a child. “My parents are both psychologists and my dad is a hypnotist, so I learned how to hypnotize as a rather young age, initially for myself for accelerated learning techniques for improved memorization, but later on to be funny and entertaining,” Seth said. “Unlike other hypnotists, I do not suggest bad habits to an audience, such as smoking or eating less, but perform a hypnotic induction technique that is not a true form of hypnosis but more of a voluntary suggestion.”

Seth has been touring colleges and theaters for about six years. Prior to traveling with his act, the performer worked as a voice actor, most notably playing Tsubasa on the animated series and movie “Digimon” and Tetsuo in the anime film “Akira.” Seth incorporates the skills he acquired as a voice actor into his live shows. “I think that a live performer should know more than just how to speak on mic, it’s not just a harsh, grating, forceful tone that’s coming through, but there are peaks and valleys and personality coming through vocally,” Seth said. “I know how to infuse the voice with a lot of feeling.” While he enjoyed his time as a voice actor, Seth explained his process of transitioning to The Daily Gamecock. “I have, I think, a pretty unique style of induction because I’ve done a lot of shows and TV around the world with non-English speaking audiences, so a lot of my induction involves glottal clicks, tapping you on acupuncture points and sort of a magnetic personality,” Seth said. “It’s less about the words and more about the magnetism of the personality that moment. I think that’s part of what makes the show strong and unique.”

While everyone in the audience did not have a chance to come on stage, Seth hypnotized the crowd at the beginning of the show as they marveled at how their index fingers magnetically touched after being separated. The performer also led the crowd through guided visualization as they thought of the same number he was imagining. Seth explained his process of preparation before performing any shows. “My parents are both psychologists and my dad is a hypnotherapist, so I learned hypnosis as a child. Eighteen student volunteers were brought onto the stage to be hypnotized. Seth used various accents throughout his set, including a French and Spanish accent as well as a voice resembling Borat’s. The hypnotized volunteers experienced several bizarre situations, including playing in a world famous orchestra, losing the ability to speak English, becoming some of the world’s first pregnant men and competing in a Japanese rap competition.”

Students played in orchestras and spoke different languages while hypnotized.

The line to enter the show stretched through the second-floor dining room. More than 100 students lined the ballroom walls, standing or sitting on the floor because there were not enough seats to accommodate the large crowd.

Seth explained his process of hypnosis at The Daily Gamecock. “I have, I think, a pretty unique style of induction because I’ve done a lot of shows and TV around the world with non-English speaking audiences, so a lot of my induction involves glottal clicks, tapping you on acupuncture points and sort of a magnetic personality,” Seth said. “It’s less about the words and more about the magnetism of the personality that moment. I think that’s part of what makes the show strong and unique.”

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To learn more about Seth’s act, visit him online at facebook.com/therealjoshuaseth, @JoshuaSeth on Twitter or on joshuaseth.com.

**Students played in orchestras and spoke different languages while hypnotized.**
BEING OF FASHIONISTA MIND

but of thrift store means, I will hereby spend less for my textbooks in order to save money for that must-have pair of skinny jeans.
FOOTBALL 2012

Legree steps up as cornerback for Auguste

Injuries to Wilds, Carson deplete running corps

Isabelle Khurshudyan
ikhurshudyan@dailygamecock.com

When redshirt junior Jimmy Legree met with defensive coordinator Lorenzo Ward at the end of last season to discuss moving from free safety to his more natural position of cornerback, he said he was excited.

When he heard the news of senior cornerback Akeem Auguste’s groin injury, Legree saw it as a chance for redemption.

With Auguste’s evaluation projecting him to miss four to five weeks of the season, Legree, who only started two games last season at free safety, said Auguste’s injury meant “it was just time for me to step up.”

Though Legree said he’s been practicing with the first team, alongside redshirt freshman Ahmad Christian taking snaps with the second team, secondary coach Grady Brown isn’t ready to name Legree the starter for Vanderbilt.

Christian has been sidelined for several practices with a concussion. He wore a yellow “no contact” jersey in Monday night’s practice.

“I wouldn’t say that anyone is locked in,” Brown said. “My job as a coach is to develop these guys and put the best four players on the field, whoever that may be at the time.”

Besides Christian, Legree’s competition to replace Auguste is freshman T.J. Goreley, who Brown praised as a “young guy that’s doing a good job.” Senior Jared Shaw can also play that position, as well as freshman Chaz Elder.

Brown said he isn’t concerned about the depth because some of the younger players, like Elder and Goreley, are ready to play at that position, though he hasn’t decided if either will redshirt this season.

“You’ll always hear me talk about developing players, and this season is a prime example of why you need as many players ready as possible,” Brown said.

Brown doesn’t want to downplay experience, but he stressed having the best player at any time on the field.

As far as Auguste, Brown said his experience will be missed, but he thinks he has enough players ready to avoid moving people from another position to create more depth at cornerback.

Auguste missed all of the 2011 season.
The South Carolina baseball team completed its coaching staff for the 2012-13 season on Monday, when Brian Buscher was welcomed to the team as a volunteer assistant coach and assistant coach Sammy Esposito was given the additional title of recruiting coordinator. Buscher will work primarily with corner infielders.

Chad Holbrook was promoted from associate head coach to head coach in July after former coach Ray Tanner was named athletic director. Buscher returns to the Gamecocks after managing the Columbia Blowfish in the spring of 2012, leading them to the Coastal Plain League Pettit Cup Championship. He was a volunteer assistant for USC’s 2011 national championship team.

As a player for the Gamecocks, Buscher was an All-American in 2003, and he played for Major League Baseball’s Minnesota Twins for parts of three seasons. In 2008, he hit .294 with 47 RBIs in 70 games.

“When this opportunity became open and Coach Tanner took the athletic director role here, [Buscher] was the first and only name that I thought of,” Holbrook said. “It’s great for us as far as recruiting is concerned to have a big leaguer on our staff — not only a big leaguer, but someone who played in the garnet and black. We’re thrilled about the addition of Brian Buscher to our staff.”

Buscher said his goal is to make sure USC players understand the importance of attention to details.

Esposito will take on the responsibilities of recruiting coordinator after spending five seasons with the Gamecocks, working with hitters and catchers.

He may not coach there anymore, but Carolina Stadium is still steeped in Athletic Director Ray Tanner’s legacy. Now, the road leading to it has been named in his honor.

The three blocks of Williams Street that run alongside the stadium were renamed by Columbia City Council Tuesday night as “Tanner Way.” Street signs along those blocks will be replaced with garnet markers that bear Tanner’s name and USC’s palmetto tree logo.

The honor follows Tanner’s three consecutive College World Series finals appearances, including two national championships, and his last of 16 seasons as USC’s head baseball coach. But the formal resolution approved by City Council speaks to Tanner’s off-the-field work, too, including his Ray Tanner Foundation.

It reads, “Coach Tanner’s steadfast commitment to his community, the University of South Carolina and the City of Columbia exemplify our highest traditions of dedication, leadership and service.”

— Compiled by Thad Moore, News Editor
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Two years ago, the South Carolina volleyball team was an SEC doormat, going just 7-23, and 4-16 in the conference. Opponents were beating the Gamecocks in straight sets and the future looked bleak.

Then, last season, coach Scott Swanson came in from Minnesota to take over the squad and promptly doubled the wins from the 2010 season in his first year. While USC won just five SEC games last year, sophomore middle blocker Cara Howley, who is also one of three team captains, noticed a difference from the season before. "When Coach Swanson came in, he completely changed the system," Howley said. "We had better success and you could see it in the numbers. Not only that, but we got a training staff and everything became completely organized. It was almost like a breath of fresh air when they all got here."

That breath of fresh air carried the Gamecocks off to a 9-1 start last season before running into the SEC schedule, where they won just five of the 19 league games. Swanson says his team was just not "ready for the big leagues," something he hopes to change this season. "The Tennessee's and the Florida's and the top schools in the conference are still more physical and more talented than us," Swanson said. "But I think we are going to compete against them a whole lot better than we did last year. Instead of losing 3-0 with some pretty lopsided scoring, I could see us winning some games on a night where we're playing our best and they're maybe a little down."

USC will begin the 2012 season Friday night by hosting the Gamecock Invitational. The Gamecocks will play Temple, Akron, East Tennessee State and UNC-Asheville over a span of two days. Because it will be the first regular season action for all five teams, Swanson does not know what to expect. "I think that if you ask someone in the volleyball world, they're going to say, 'Well, an SEC team should beat all of these teams,'" Swanson said. "The thing about preseason and all of those factors is that we have no idea how good or bad some of these teams are going to be. They could have gotten a couple foreign players that have raised their level big time, or could have some players who have suffered some injuries. We just don't know what to expect, and we're not taking anyone for granted."

Swanson, who compiled a 125-46 record with five NCAA tournament appearances in five seasons at Minnesota, feels his team is more athletic this season and has set a team goal of breaking the .500 mark in 2012. If the Gamecocks are able to break even this season, they must do so with eight of the 17 players on roster being freshmen. Because these freshmen make up nearly half of the team, they will be counted on to continue the Gamecocks' upward climb. Swanson said he believes the young players have gotten off to a good start. "They have adjusted pretty well," Swanson said. "The speed of the serving for the passers is still an issue I think. It's going to take some time for them to adjust to how fast the ball is coming over the net now as to where it was in club and high school."

"I feel like they have really USC hosts volleyball invitational

Gamecocks welcome four teams in season-opening tournament

Kyle Heck

The volleyball team started strong last year but will look to improve upon its 5-14 record in the SEC. USC welcomes eight new freshmen to the 2012 squad.
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South Carolina’s men’s soccer team once again faces the pressure to win coming into its 2012 campaign. After being crowned last year’s 2011 regular season Conference USA co-champions with University of Alabama at Birmingham and being picked first in the 2012 Conference USA preseason coaches’ poll, the Gamecocks are surrounded by a lot of hype.

“Our expectation is to be on that level, so there is no added pressure for us,” head coach Mark Berson said. “This is what our guys sign up for when they come to play at South Carolina. They come to play for championships.”

Even though Southern Methodist, the 2011 Conference USA tournament winners, defeated the Gamecocks twice last season, including an early exit in the conference tournament, South Carolina beat out the Mustangs by one vote to be picked the preseason favorite to win the conference.

“It was a wonderful compliment from the other coaches to vote us No. 1 this year,” Berson said. “But it really doesn’t matter to us because we know how tight it’s going to be. This conference is very deep with five teams that could make the tournament, and honestly I don’t think this league will be decided until the last week of the season.”

Berson’s 2012 squad boasts seven

USC seeks repeat as SEC champion

Soccer faces challenging nonconference schedule

Chris Stanley
SPORTS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

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Berson’s 2012 squad boasts seven
with a foot injury.

“He’s doing well,” Brown said.

“He was obviously down early on when he initially injured his groin and everything. Day by day, time heals all wounds and he’s getting better.”

Running back injuries: Entering the season, running backs coach Everette Sands referred to his running back corps as a “full stable.”

After injuries to both sophomore Brandon Wilds and redshirt freshman Shon Carson, Sands’ depth has thinned considerably.

Carson had surgery for a wrist injury that will keep him out indefinitely, while Wilds has been wearing a boot at practice for a sprained ankle.

Star tailback Marcus Lattimore, who missed most of the 2011 season with a torn knee ligament, said he sympathizes with not just Carson and Wilds, but everyone on the team who has suffered injury.

“It hurts me when they get hurt because I know what they’re going through,” Lattimore said. “I know Shon is hurting right now. All of the guys that have been injured on our team are hurting right now. That’s who everyone on the team is playing for right now because we know how bad they want to be out there.”
Champs vs. Cont. from B6
Returning starters from last year’s championship team, including preseason all-conference forward Bradlee Baladez, who led Gamecocks in goals scored in 2011 with seven in 19 appearances.

“Everything starts with the team for us,” Baladez said. “It would be easy to lose focus with all these accolades, but the main focus for this season is to keep getting wins and striving for success.”

Other key players from last year are looking to keep their form the same as it was last season. Midfielder J.P. Rafferty and Braden Troyer both notched two goals each in South Carolina’s first preseason win against Georgia State. Baladez also scored two goals in a win against Elon, so last year’s starters haven’t shown signs of rust.

“That group of players really came in fit this season, which is a testament to their dedication, and I give them full credit for that,” Berson said. “And it is a huge positive that your veterans can come in this ready and make the preseason run a lot more smoothly.”

As for the four spots that will not be held by returning starters, Berson was confident those spots won’t be of any trouble to him or his team. According to Berson, his clubs quality and depth is one of its biggest strengths.

“Well have a number of guys in a number of spots that will be stepping up, and what we have is a really good depth,” Berson said. “This is not an 11-man team; it’s more of a 16- to 18-man team. We’ll see as the season moves along how this depth will help us.”

With a solid preseason so far, the Gamecocks look to avoid last season’s pitfalls and start out slowly. Last year South Carolina started out 2-4-1 before finishing the season out 9-7-3. With similar tough nonconference games like No. 20 Northwestern and No. 15 St. Johns, South Carolina will be tested early again this season.

“Our schedule this year is going to be one of the toughest, just like it was last year,” Berson said. “We may not have a glittering record to start the season, but we’re getting better, and it’s a new page this year, so I don’t know what we’re going to do. But that tough start will help our RPI and will let us know what we need to fix before we head onto the conference schedule.”

Bradlee Baladez — Junior Forward:
No one’s surprised Baladez is one of South Carolina’s top returners. After being named a Preseason All-American by multiple publications, the Gamecocks’ top scorer from 2011 will be sure to keep his same form as center forward for 2012.

Mike Mangotic — Senior Defender:
The UNC-Greensboro transfer enters his third year as a starter and continues to be the anchor of the Gamecocks’ defense. He comes into this season starting 41 consecutive matches for South Carolina, the most for any defender.

J.P. Rafferty — Junior Midfielder:
Rafferty exited the 2011 season as one of South Carolina’s best all-around midfielders. Look for the Raleigh native to be a key piece in the Gamecocks midfield on both offense and defense.

Rafferty has some off the bench for most of his career, finishing with two goals and one assist last season.

Bradley Baladez, Braden Troyer and Richard Pearce

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South Carolina women’s soccer will take the field for the first of seven straight home games when it faces Mercer Thursday night. USC is looking for its first win of the season after tying Milwaukee in double overtime and losing to Minnesota 2-1 in an overtime golden goal.

“It came down to us being physically tired through two overtime matches, and unfortunately worn down to not do the things we should to do keep teams off the scoreboard,” coach Shelley Smith said. “We learned that we will fight to the end ... This team is going to come together through the fall and get better every week.”

The Gamecocks entered the season ranked No. 24 in the nation and were picked to finish second in the SEC in a preseason coaches’ poll.

“I think it’s an honor to be that respected,” Smith said. “I think we’ve earned that respect across the country and in our conference. We don’t pay attention — the ranking that’s most important is at the end of the season, so that’s what we work towards. But we also feel good going into the season knowing that we have won that respect.”

USC has played without Sabrina D’Angelo, as the sophomore goalkeeper is competing for Canada in the U-20 World Cup. D’Angelo was named to the preseason all-SEC team by College Sports Madness after notching 75 saves last season, holding opponents scoreless four times.

“A player of [D’Angelo’s] caliber is always going to be something you miss,” Smith said. “She’s a leader and had an amazing impact on the field last year as a freshman. We’re missing a piece, but we also have players that are ready to step in. Senior Darien Vercillo has stepped up to lead the Gamecocks from the goal during D’Angelo’s absence.

“Darius has come in the first two games and played very well, made some great saves to try to keep us in games,” Smith said. “That’s what a team is. You have players behind you and the opportunity to step in and meet the challenge and help us succeed.”

Offensively, USC is looking to find a rhythm after losing graduates Kayla Grimsley and Kortney Rhodes. Grimsley led the team with 10 goals last season.

“Last year, early in the season, there were times where we struggled to find the net, even with tremendous goal-scorers like Kayla and Kortney,” Smith said.

Senior Gabrielle Gilbert is one of the Gamecocks’ biggest threats on offense.

Gamecocks open 7-game homestand after overtime loss
Paula Britenich
PRESEASON ALL-SEC TEAM

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TOP RETURNERS
Women’s Soccer

SABRINA D’ANGELO — SOPHOMORE GOALIE
The Gamecocks have D’Angelo while she competes for Canada in the U-20 World Cup in Japan. D’Angelo will return to the team in time for its match against Mississippi State on Sept. 14.

DANI HENRY — SENIOR DEFENDER
Henry was named to the Preseason All-SEC Second Team, and this season she is leading a USC defense that has held opponents to two goals in two overtime games. In 2011, Henry started all 21 games South Carolina played, spending most of the season at right back before moving to left back late in the year.

GABRIELLE GILBERT — JUNIOR FORWARD
The junior appeared in all of the Gamecocks’ matches last season, spending time at forward and midfielder. She finished 2011 with three goals, including the game-winner against then-No. 22 Auburn. Gilbert is a versatile player who made four starts at defender as a freshman in 2010.

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“IT’S THE SAME THING this year, where we’re figuring out how we’re going to be more dangerous, how we’re going to break down our opponent. We’re waiting to see who’s going to step up and find the net. We have potential scorers in Danielle Au, Coryn Bajema, Gabrielle Gilbert and Courtney Angotti-Smith, who’s a freshman.

“There are a lot of weapons that we have, so we just have to make sure we’re connecting on our offensive third and taking advantage of our opportunities.”

Mercer is a member of the Atlantic Sun Conference, and the Bears come to South Carolina after recording their first win of the season against Southern Alabama on Sunday. Thursday’s game kicks off at 7 p.m.

“We know they’ll be ready to play,” Smith said. “We have a target on our backs, being SEC champions the past year and going into the season ranked ... Opponents will come here wanting to prove something and knock us off. We need to match that intensity and make sure we play our game and take care of business at home.”
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