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Students make Cocky’s personality their own

New students selected to fill mascot’s big yellow shoes next year

Natalie Pita
NEWS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

The handful of students who take on Cocky’s character are only given a few suggestions about how to portray the character before the role is left up to their discretion.

These individuals are then allowed to build upon and develop the persona of USC’s most energetic bird with their own personalities.

Cocky is one character, but currently, three students help bring the mascot alive at athletic events. Cocky also works with the Cocky’s Reading Express and can be booked for private or community events in Columbia and the area.

With one of these students graduating in May and another graduating in December, USC’s spirit program found two new individuals during tryouts on April 21.

The tryouts were a three-part trial that helped determine whether or not contenders were capable of holding the unique position.

“The tryout process is basically calculated to assess who is capable of bringing the persona alive, being creative and innovative both using everyday objects as props and just engaging an audience, engaging a crowd,” said James Armstrong, a representative of the USC spirit program.

Two of the tryout sessions involved the student-athletes in character as Cocky, while the third part was a brief interview.

“Cocky doesn’t talk, but the person who portrays the Cocky will be having those person-to-person interactions before and after events,” Armstrong said.

Five students attended the tryouts. For most student organizations hosting recruitment, this may seem like a small number, but the spirit program thought it was perfect.

The Cocky tryouts are not typically advertised. Last year, the spirit program went outside the box and put a vague post on social media.

But the program is certain that the people who are the best fit to assist Cocky’s persona will find out about them.

“Those individuals will go above and beyond to find those opportunities,” Armstrong said.



Olivia Barthel / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Only a handful of students are selected to take on the Cocky persona, and after they are given a few general guidelines about the bird’s character, they are given the freedom to put their own personality into the role.

For the first time this year, the two senior Cocky representatives hosted USC’s first high school mascot clinic, which program representatives hope will become an annual event. There were 12 participants, including two who participated in the

COCKY • 2

Remembering junior year

For its last issues this semester, The Daily Gamecock is asking students to reflect. Today, third-year students offer their memorable moments.



Kellie Hafko, third-year nursing student
“I was at Pinch, and there was this red-headed guy at the bar. Now he’s my boyfriend, and we’re talking about getting married.”



Adam Jackson, third-year accounting student
“The Clemson-Carolina game was pretty legit, as usual. Those are always fun.”



Alexi Hurlbutt, third-year accounting student
“Getting my first C. It sucked. That was a real eye-opener. I know people say this all the time, but keep your grades up, freshmen.”



Caroline Coe, third-year advertising student
“Getting an internship was a great experience. I got to work on my communication skills.”



Gavin Smith, third-year marketing and management student
“My most memorable moment would be my campaign for (student) senate because I was able to connect with other students at the university.”

Photos by Hannah Cleaveland / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Freedom discussion planned

SG to host forum between students, legislators regarding education freedom

Hannah Jeffrey
NEWS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Several state education leaders will bring an ongoing discussion on academic freedom in higher education to USC today at Student Government’s Freedom Forum.

Panelists will include Lt. Gov. candidate Bakari Sellers; Prof. Augie Grant, USC Faculty Senate chair-elect; state Rep. Josh Putnam, R-Anderson; and state Sens. Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg, and Katrina Shealy, R-Lexington.

SG representatives hope to raise awareness about academic freedom in the higher education system and promote a dialogue between USC students, faculty members and state lawmakers.

The issue has been a heated topic in South Carolina after the state House voted to cut

funding for USC Upstate and the College of Charleston because they required freshmen to read books with gay and lesbian themes. Both campuses have seen protests in recent weeks.

“We want to open discussion between the student body and legislators in South Carolina about academic freedom,” said Jonathan Kaufman, SG secretary of government affairs. “Higher education is really important, and so is discourse on college campuses and the freedom to study a variety of topics, even though some may be controversial.”

Kaufman said panelists were selected from both sides of the aisle in order to encourage a “healthy debate” on the topic.

Students will have the opportunity to ask panelists questions about academic freedom.

The “Freedom Forum: Higher Education, Higher Standards” will be held at 7 p.m. in the Williams-Brice Nursing Auditorium.

DG



Hannah Jeffrey / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Head women’s basketball coach Dawn Staley and the women’s basketball team stopped by the student senate meeting Wednesday to accept a resolution from SG congratulating the team.



The South Carolina baseball team rallied from a one-run deficit to earn a 6-1 victory over the USC Upstate Spartans Wednesday night.

SEE PAGE 8

IN BRIEF

Swinney: ‘I try to be a good example to others’

Clemson football coach Dabo Swinney said Wednesday that Clemson welcomes “players of any faith, or no faith,” after the Freedom From Religion Foundation sent a letter of complaint to the university, according to The State.

“All we require in the recruitment of any player is that he must be a great player at his position, meet the academic requirements and have good character,” the statement said.

The foundation accused Swinney of promoting Christianity in the university’s football program and violating constitutional guidelines of the First Amendment regarding the separation of church and state.

“Recruiting is very personal. Recruits and their families want — and deserve — to know who you are as a person, not just what kind of coach you are,” the statement said. “I try to be a good example to others, and I work hard to live my life according to my faith.”

—Hannah Jeffrey, News Editor

Anthropologie, J. Crew coming to Trenholm Plaza

Anthropologie and J. Crew are moving into Trenholm Plaza, where Books-A-Million was, according to The State.

Anthropologie will use approximately 9,700 square feet of the space, and J. Crew will take up another 6,000 square feet.

“It’s really exciting. We’ve been pursuing these tenants for years,” said Lyle Darnall, managing director for Columbia-based Edens, an East Coast shopping center developer and owner. “The timing was finally right.”

These stores are the latest in a string of national chains coming to Columbia. Whole Foods, Trader Joe’s, Urban Outfitters and Nordstrom Rack have all come to the Columbia area in the last few years.

“An Anthropologie and J. Crew is a big deal for Columbia,” Darnall said. “Hopefully, it will lead other retailers to make the same move.”

—Hannah Jeffrey, News Editor

Woman who left gun in Chick-fil-A arrested

A woman was arrested after she allegedly returned to a Chick-fil-A bathroom to retrieve a loaded gun she had left behind, according to The State.

Camden police charged 45-year-old Robin Lei Albert with unlawful carrying of a pistol. Police were called to the Chick-fil-A last week after a man reported his daughter and her friends found a gun on top of a toilet paper dispenser in the women’s restroom.

According to an incident report, the gun was a .45 caliber Glock 30. Camden Police Chief Joe Floyd said the gun was fully loaded and police were notified when Albert returned to the restaurant to retrieve the pistol.

“She forgot she left the gun in the bathroom and left the restaurant,” Floyd said. “When she remembered it, she returned to the restaurant and asked for it.”

—Hannah Jeffrey, News Editor



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COCKY • Continued from 1

tryout process.

The clinic was beneficial to the spirit program as whole, Armstrong said, and it added to the quality of the students who want to form Cocky’s persona and assist with fundraising and community outreach.

The newly recruited students will need to consider the mascot’s past before they take on the job of helping maintain the persona in the future.

Jamie Ballentine, one of the most remembered Cockys, won the Capital One Mascot Bowl in 2003 and went on to be a professional mascot.

“I think it’s important to reflect on the past of Cocky. Every new bird that comes in, there’s a few stories that they’ve shared, and they’re directed to watch Jamie Ballentine’s portrayal of Cocky,” Armstrong said. “He kind of set the bar high just because he was so visible nationally.”

Cocky first appeared in 1980, when he replaced Sir Big Spur. But he was not well-liked initially and was booed off the football field.

After attending other sporting

events, Cocky began to build a following that set the standard for what the mascot is today.

Yet Armstrong said students who help build Cocky’s persona usually tell him the hardest part is not figuring out the best way to represent the mascot; rather, it is knowing that it’s limited and that they will eventually have to leave the persona behind.

“I don’t think it’s hard to appreciate the moment. It’s hard in knowing that they’re limited,” Armstrong said.

The people who do have the opportunity to assume the persona of Cocky have to keep their role a secret until they graduate. Armstrong said students who have take on the role usually find it difficult that only some close friends know about this important part of their life.

“Separating two lives is hard, but there’s a certain point where they realized that Cocky is more of a part of them,” Armstrong said. “Cocky encourages people to be a better person, both inside and outside of the persona.”

DG

Congratulations to University 101 Peer Leaders recognized at Awards Day!

Dean’s Award for Undergraduate Achievement, Moore School of Business
Emily Cooper

American Chemical Society Undergraduate Award in Organic Chemistry, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
Hiram and Lawanda Allen Award for Excellence in Chemistry, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
Julia Pribyl

College of Arts and Sciences Rising Senior Award, School of the Earth, Ocean and Environment
Marybeth Lundquist

Jeong S. Yang Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Mathematics, Department of Mathematics
Kelsey Uhl

Stephen D. Durham Award, Department of Statistics
Marissa Brienza

Maximillian LaBorde Scholarship, Department of English
Kayla Engel
Morgan Lundy

Hampton-Rogers Award in History, Department of History
Henry (Trey) Capps, III

Phi Alpha Theta Award, Department of History
Brittany Stanford

College of Arts and Sciences Rising Senior Award, Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures
James Holt

Arney Robinson Childs Student Award, Women’s and Gender Studies
Erin Lewis

Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship, National Fellowship and Scholarship Recipients
Ariane Robbins
Kelly McCabe

Thomas Moore Craig Leadership Award, Omicron Delta Kappa
Adam Mayer

Freshman Scholarship Awards
Leon David Leggett, III
Alexandria McGaha
Ariane Robbins

Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges

Deema Abu Abdo
Alyssa Adkins
Mason Branham
Alexandra Bren
Brittaney Chatman
Meghan Conroy
Emily Cooper
Valerie Cumpston
Mitchell Hammonds

Emily Hardin
Caroline Hendricks
JennaMarie Hill
Jennifer Hodshon
Julianna Laboy
Thomas Landzert
Kathryn Lucas
Beshada McGregor
Chase Mizzell

Marie Morrisette
Timothy Olson
Julia Pribyl
Sydney Reynolds
Emma Robl
Kristine Snyder
Johnathan Stathopoulos
Cassandra Staton
Holland Stocker

Outstanding Senior

Meghan Conroy
Emily Cooper
Caroline Hendricks

Kathryn Lucas
Chase Mizzell
Timothy Olson
Sydney Reynolds

Emma Robl
Johnathan Stathopoulos
Cassandra Staton

Steven N. Swanger Leadership Award

Caroline Hendricks

Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award

Chase Mizzell
Cassandra Staton

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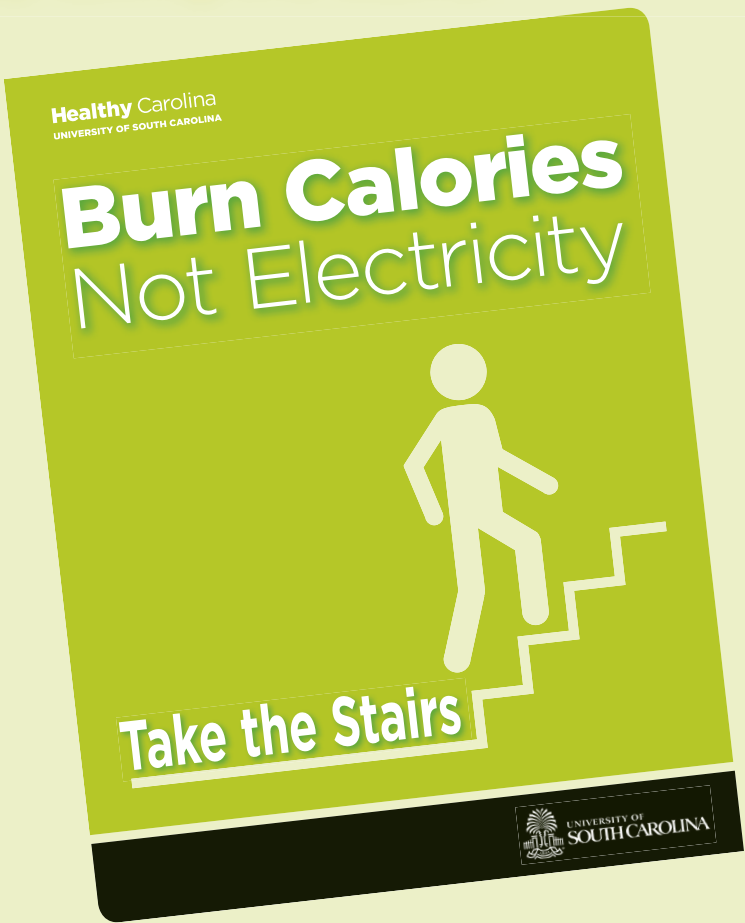
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Parking crisis demands mental nimbleness

ISSUE
USC class sizes increase as parking continues to decrease.

OUR STANCE
The school needs to rethink their approach to solutions.

Campus parking has shrunk by 16.6 percent over three years, and it is painfully evident.

With every closed surface lot comes another exodus of wayward commuters, scoping out the campus’ meager offerings before testing their luck in what is likely USC’s most prominent coliseum: the Bull Street parking garage. The concrete arena is complete with automobile-steering gladiators who must engage in vehicular fisticuffs for a precious parking spot, lest they wish to wait 10 minutes or so for another chance at parking and actually going to class.

Perhaps that was a tad melodramatic, but anyone who’s braved the campus’ parking garages at peak hours is well aware of the Kafkaesque spectacle that it truly is.

But grim acceptance of the absurd shouldn’t be our only course of action.

Yes, USC has shown little sign of providing recompense, let alone

a long-term solution, and that’s discouraging, but it’s certainly not an issue of awareness. Students have been rip-roaring about their circumstances for years now.

And this is where it gets complicated: USC is just as much a victim of circumstance as its students are.

Put plainly, Columbia is getting too urban for USC to provide adequate surface parking, but the public transportation system hasn’t caught up with this reality, leaving surplus commuters with a parking shortage. It’s a veritable impasse, but does that mean the school must continue to victimize themselves?

“Put plainly, Columbia is getting too urban for USC to provide adequate surface parking, but the public transportation system hasn’t caught up with this reality.”

“Woe, is me,” should not be the school’s motto as it’s pelted with complaint after complaint. Sure, it’s annoying and redundant, and perhaps a paradigm shift is in order as students come to terms with the school and city’s increasingly urban environment, but that doesn’t mean the school can’t try to make the peripheral improvements that would go a long way in streamlining campus transportation and alleviating the parking shortage.

For instance, improving shuttle coordination and coverage, or improving bike lines and fostering the cyclist culture could go a long way in removing people from their cars, providing effective transportation alternatives, and freeing up parking spaces — all at the same time.

We certainly aren’t experts, but we wish we could see similar discourse and nimbleness from USC’s offices. Finance is obviously finite, but ingenuity certainly isn’t.

Consider this: We’re a top-ranked Carnegie Foundation designated research university, yet we can’t find a solution to the problems at our own doorstep. The school blames a lack of resources, but we think they should be more concerned about a lack of conscientiousness.



USC must take care of graduates, their families during commencement

Ticket boost encouraging, dedication should be maintained

My daughter is graduating college this year. She has spent the past five years at the University of South Carolina and has earned a B.S. in International Business. She will be graduating Magna Cum Laude.

She has a large family, and everyone including four sisters, three brothers and a grandfather that also graduated from USC, have thought about nothing but going to watch her walk across the platform and receive her degree. A degree well earned, too.

In pursuit of her degree, many sacrifices were made by all of us. The cost of such a degree is staggering and without her effort to obtain scholarships and her grandfathers’ willingness to provide the additional funds, this moment would never have happened.

Furthermore, more than 20 of her family members are scheduled to attend her graduation in May. We have secured hotel rooms and travel arrangements. Reservations are made at our favorite restaurant and we are very excited about this once in a lifetime event.

To be clear, we love the university. My daughter’s cousin has applied and will be starting this fall. When we were told that the vice president of the United States of America was going to speak at the graduation, we thought “Wow, what an honor!”

We were so excited and proud, especially for her, but then the bomb dropped. She was told she could only have four tickets.

Seriously! Are you kidding me? She was devastated! How can a public school not allow family members to attend a graduation ceremony? I understand the security risk, however, I’m not interested in who is speaking: I’m interested in seeing my daughter walk, period.

This is wrong. Family must be allowed to be there. Neither the families nor the students will sacrifice that.

Alas, the number went from four to six, but I am still concerned that some graduates will require more guests. I do feel confident that everyone will ultimately be accommodated, but the university must keep the graduates and their family in priority.

Although the initial four tickets were a scare, I hope USC continues to arrange the graduation ceremony that its students deserve.

— Stuart Gore, USC parent

Global awareness lacking, concerning

Disappointedly few Americans knew of Ukraine's location

As a result of the ongoing tensions between Russia and Ukraine in Eastern Europe, Survey Sampling International recently conducted a survey of Americans to gauge their opinion on U.S. intervention in the conflict, as well as their knowledge of the country’s location. The survey produced some startling results.

Some of the responses can be characterized as nothing short of silly. One respondent placed Ukraine as a remote island in the Southern Pacific Ocean, roughly halfway between New Zealand and Antarctica. Others thought it was somewhere in the Great Plains or Alaska, and yet another respondent placed it near Miami.

A lack of world geography is one thing, but placing Ukraine next to Miami also makes you wonder if that person could even find their own state on a U.S. map. It’s certainly possible some people responded to the survey jokingly or half-heartedly, however at least a few of the glaring mistakes must’ve been sincere. In total, just 16 percent of Americans could correctly locate Ukraine on a world map. This figure was similar across various demographic groups. Even amongst college graduates, only 23 percent

could successfully label Ukraine on a map, better than the population as a whole, but still an alarmingly low number. Even more concerning was that the survey found the further respondents thought Ukraine was from its actual location, the more likely they were to support U.S. military intervention.

These results are embarrassing for a nation that plays such a major role in a multitude of international organizations. It’s hard to take seriously a person who believes the U.S. should invade a country, yet, when asked, is unable to identify that country on a map. Thankfully, those who are in charge of making such decisions are generally more well-versed in geography. However, that’s not an excuse for average Americans to disregard foreign affairs. If government officials base their decisions at least partly on public opinion, and public opinion is dominated by an erroneous and inaccurate view of the world, mistakes are much more likely to be made.

Americans cannot dismiss knowledge of world geography as

something to be left to commanders at the Pentagon or officials at the White House to worry about. Doing so is naive and could lead to a variety of other problems. For instance, Americans who are unaware of a country’s location are more likely to blindly support costly and counterproductive wars. That’s not fair to members of the military, who joined to protect the U.S., yet, depending on various factors, could find themselves fighting in a foreign nation without any genuine national security interest. Those outside of the military aren’t unaffected either, as they will be expected to fund, through taxation, any future wars the nation decides to intervene in. The Jay Leno man on the street interviews provide a humorous glimpse into some Americans’ stunning lack of understanding, however, the problem is very real.

As someone opposed to American military intervention in Ukraine and a return to Cold War era tensions, I want others to learn the location of not just Ukraine, but as many other nations as possible. Students don’t have to memorize every country, but realizing that Ukraine isn’t a major city in Florida with a tropical climate and large Spanish speaking population is a good start. Doing so is the first step towards finding more peaceful and productive alternatives to war.



Chad Brown
Second-year insurance and risk management student

IT’S YOUR RIGHT

The goal of The Daily Gamecock’s Viewpoints page is to stimulate discussion in the University of South Carolina community. All published authors are expected to provide logical arguments to back their views.

The Daily Gamecock encourages readers to voice opinions and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on dailygamecock.com.

Letters and guest columns should be submitted via email to editor@dailygamecock.com. Letters must be 200 to 300 words in length and include

the author’s name, year in school and area of study.

We also invite student leaders and USC faculty members to submit guest columns. Columnists should keep submissions to about 500 words in length and include the author’s name and position.

The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length and clarity, or not publish at all.

All submissions become the property of The Daily Gamecock and must conform to the legal standards of USC Student Media.

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The Daily Gamecock is the editorially independent student newspaper of the University of South Carolina. It is published daily during the fall and spring semesters and nine times during the summer with the exception of university holidays and exam periods. Opinions expressed in The Daily Gamecock are those of editors or author and not those of the University of South Carolina. The Board of Student Publications and Communications is the publisher of The Daily Gamecock. The Department of Student Media is the newspaper’s parent organization. The Daily Gamecock is supported in part by student activity fees. One free copy per reader. Additional copies may be purchased for \$1 each from the Department of Student Media.

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CONTACT INFORMATION			
Offices located on the third floor of Russell House			
EDITOR editor@dailygamecock.com	THE MIX mix@dailygamecock.com		
NEWS news@dailygamecock.com	SPORTS sports@dailygamecock.com		
VIEWPOINTS viewpoints@dailygamecock.com	PHOTO photo@dailygamecock.com		
Newsroom: 777-7726	Sports: 777-7182	Editor’s office: 777-3914	Fax: 777-6482
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CORRECTIONS

If you find an error in today’s edition of The Daily Gamecock, let us know about it. Email editor@dailygamecock.com and we will print the correction in our next issue.

‘Hamlet’ adaptation delves into mental asylum

Modern-day reinterpretation goes dark, thoughtful

Katie Cole
MIX@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

“Hamlet,” one of Shakespeare’s most enduringly popular plays, is now being presented on the stage of Drayton Hall at USC with a fresh twist: Instead of being set in Denmark, this adaptation is set in a mental asylum in the 1950s.

Directed by Robert Richmond, undergraduate director of the Theatre Department, the play explores the theme of madness and mental illness, something that critics have asked about Hamlet for years.

Richmond said he set out to answer the question, “Is Hamlet mad, or is he just pretending to be mad? ... I don’t think we really truly have a complete understanding of what insanity is and who gets to define what insanity is.”

Richmond told the actors to explore what particular illness they thought their characters had and to choose what they thought was most accurate for their characters.

“They’re not all as obvious,” he said. “Those particular dimensions come on throughout the evening.”

He focused on Hamlet’s character specifically, saying that Hamlet begins the show with a nervous disposition, partly brought on by depression from his father’s death and partly from his frustration at his mother’s marriage to his uncle. Hamlet’s actions, he explained, become “more confident, more passionate, more actionable as the production goes on,” taking the audience on a distinctive journey from start to finish.

Having his actors research mental illness was a learning tool that actors found to be very enlightening and helpful. Fourth-year theater major Liam MacDougall, who plays The Player King and Bernardo, said he learned a lot about the treatments that mentally ill patients were put through.

“A lot of the practices we use in the production are still used today,” MacDougall said.

Even though the show is set in the 1950s, many of its themes remain relevant today. Third-year theater major John Floyd agreed, saying that patients were treated almost as puppets.

“You end up finding out about these terrible experiences and that [the institutions] were testing on them,” Floyd said.

Having directed “Hamlet” twice before, Richmond came in ready to



Courtesy of Drayton Hall

Brought by director Robert Richmond into a new interpretation, the Drayton Hall presentation of “Hamlet” will posit the prince as one of many insane characters in a mental asylum, recontextualizing the action and confronting the effects of mental illness.

work with a grander scale than he had previously with the production and with the idea of the asylum already in mind. Richmond said that he believes having a strong opinion from the beginning is what makes a great production.

The take on the play is fresh, but working with Richmond is something many of the actors found to be special. First-year theater student Grayson Garrick noted that Richmond is the most “actor-friendly” director he has ever worked with.

“He has this way of telling you what he wants to see in a scene but also listening to what you’re finding,” Garrick said.

Richmond, who has directed many Shakespeare productions, brings years of experience to the table, his actors say.

“He’s got a really, really great sense of sort of really trying to [educate] his students; it’s something that’s always at the forefront of his mind,” MacDougall said.

Each new production to Richmond is just that: a new production. For “Hamlet,” Richmond said that he is doing the show on a much larger scale than he has before and adds that the sets and the lights really add to the story and help to show the world of the asylum the characters are living in.

Hamlet also marks the MFA

graduate students’ last performance at USC before they take on internships next year at different locations. On being the last director to work with them before their next steps, Richmond had nothing but good thoughts.

“There’s nothing like ‘Hamlet.’ It’s been 450 years now since the playwright was born; it’s a great milestone for the world,” he said.

“Hamlet” runs at Drayton Hall through Saturday. Shows on Thursday and Friday begin at 8 p.m., and Saturday has two showings: one at 7 p.m. and a half-priced late-night show at 11 p.m.

DC

‘Cassiopeia’ an ambitious space-opera musical

‘Cosmic Calypso’ mixes sci-fi, philosophy at Booker T. Washington

Belvin Olasov
MIX@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

“Cassiopeia: The Cosmic Calypso” is the most ambitious space opera musical to hit USC in its history. It’s also the only one.

The play, the brainchild of fourth-year business student Pedro Lopez De Victoria details the trials of a space crew that comes to face their own mortality.

Lopez De Victoria both wrote and directed the vehicle, bringing a very singular vision influenced by a range of media, from Buck Rogers to philosopher Albert Camus.

“I think there’s something important about being a writer and a director. ... There’s a lot of cohesion to the vision,” he said. “If I make it worse or I make it better as director, it is a further expression of what I intended.”

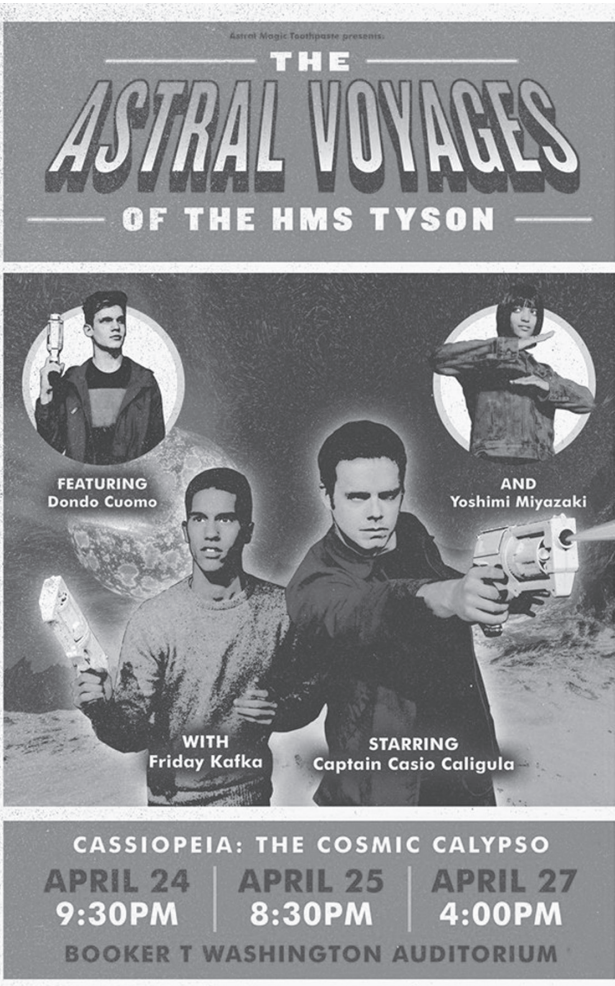
The play is his first major theatrical effort at USC, the culmination of his experience in music and passion for writing and the arts.

“I adore writing, I adore music, I adore theater, and for some reason, there’s a way to combine all three of them which is socially acceptable,” he said.

Lopez De Victoria is currently in two bands, One Two Skidoo and Casio Mio, and he brought that musical passion to the fairly different form of the musical play.

“We just raise hell and go crazy,” he said of his Casio Mio performances. “If we were to do a play with the same amount of energy, everything would break on the first night.”

Instead of a bringing the intensity level of a live music act, Lopez De Victoria purposefully structured his play to reflect both the freewheeling absurdity of sci-fi B-movies and the dramatic



Courtesy of Cassiopeia

The play takes inspiration from sci-fi B-movies like Flash Gordon and philosophers like Albert Camus.

very specific thematic concerns he wanted to deal with, especially with entropy and decay, the transition from order to disorder.

“What I think is the coolest thing about entropy

is that while what’s in the material realm falls apart — we get old, our bodies age — something invisible comes together. Our spirit, our soul, whatever, the innards of your sentient existence, it becomes more formed,” he said. “What makes human beings, I think, something incredible is that we can appreciate the invisible.”

Mostly disconnected from the drama department, Lopez De Victoria has been constructing the play with volunteers and friends, and the majority of the actors aren’t theater majors. According to Lopez De Victoria, their enthusiasm and connection to the characters has made the directing process easy and relatively smooth.

“It’s a pretty impressive human resource push,” said graduate business student Nathan Anderith, who stars as Cassio, the captain of the ragtag team.

Anderith, like many of the other cast members, was synced up with Lopez De Victoria’s vision.

“All the very strong structures and connections that were built in the first half of the play get destabilized and broken down toward the end,” Anderith said.

Lopez De Victoria looks at the play’s themes as a frank exploration of death and what it means to confront it.

“I got really sick, and my way of coping with that was like, I need to have something that explores and confirms my existence, and — it makes me sound so melodramatic by saying this, but every person has to at one point face their existence and the unanswerable question of it,” he said.

Wrapped up with the inherent darkness of the play’s central premise is the wondrous, terrifying expanse of space, which is, to Lopez De Victoria, entrancing in its mysteries.

“It’s the reason why we dream so beautifully,” he said. “Because humanity has always had that to look at.”

DC



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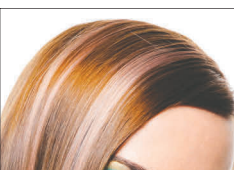
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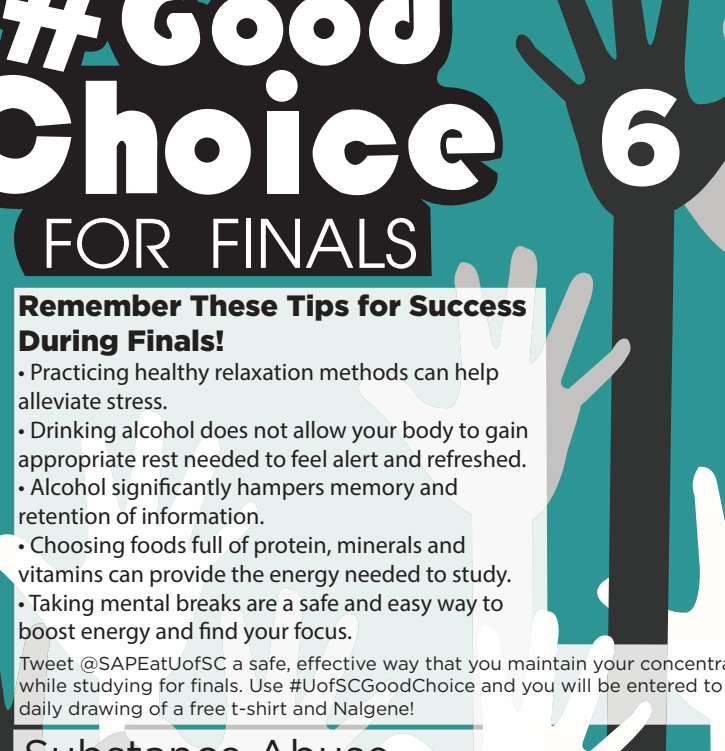
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FOR FINALS

6

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- Alcohol significantly hampers memory and retention of information.
- Choosing foods full of protein, minerals and vitamins can provide the energy needed to study.
- Taking mental breaks are a safe and easy way to boost energy and find your focus.

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HOROSCOPES

THE SCENE

Aries

Your dreams seem prophetic today and tomorrow. Something’s coming due. Clarify your direction with friends and dispel confusion. It’s emotion versus reason. Slow down and contemplate. Review and adjust. You either have results or excuses. Take notes. Your team renews your faith.

Taurus

Plan parties and get together with groups today and tomorrow. Creative collaboration builds a dream. Play, but remember your budget. Provide common sense where lacking. Set your goals high. Study to comply with a new request. Remind an idealist about the facts.

Gemini

A dream seems newly achievable. Take on new responsibilities today and tomorrow, and prepare for inspection. Give yourself time alone to think. Investigate the outer limits, and advance your agenda. Push your luck and explore new territory.

Cancer

You’d rather play than work today and tomorrow. Do your homework. Travel conditions improve, with caution. Keep it realistic, with alternative routes and backup plans. Visualize future fun, and share possibilities with the ideal partners. Something you’re expecting may not be available.

Leo

Financial planning is more fun with another today and tomorrow. Your partner’s vision inspires. Figure the costs to make it happen. Be on time. Have faith. Consider the previously impossible. Resolve illusive details. Separate speculation from fact. Get expert assistance to navigate uncharted waters.

Virgo

Fantasize about your perfect job today and tomorrow. Consult with a partner who can see your blind spots. Negotiations and compromise arise with greater ease. Balance work and family responsibilities with rigorous scheduling. You don’t have to do it all ... delegate!

Libra

The impossible looks easy. Dive into some intensity at work today and tomorrow. It’s an excellent moment for romantic dreaming. Share your fantasies. Be a good listener. Go for substance over nebulous or vague ideas. Cultivate your love.

Scorpio

Time for fun and games today and tomorrow. The best results come from playful experimentation. Dreams of domestic bliss can come true. Add aesthetic and harmonic touches. Figure out what you want to accomplish. Family comes first.

Sagittarius

Your spiritual practices clear your mind. Dreams and visions make sense. Allow yourself some poetic license. You don’t have to be able to explain everything. Investigate a fascinating subject, and get inspired. Home holds your focus today and tomorrow. Handle chores and plan a luxurious evening.

Capricorn

Gather information today and tomorrow. Catch up on studies. Write, record and make plans. Get a contract in writing. Study and practice. An old dream comes true. Don’t squander savings on a splurge. Some of your rewards are intangible, but still valuable. Count your blessings.

Aquarius

Watch for a new source of income. Make sure you’ll earn enough to pay expenses. Show your team how much you believe in them. Have faith in your abilities. Get creative with solutions. Restate your intentions to keep the dream alive.

Pisces

Life seems easier for the next few days. Consider the consequences before taking actions. Assert your desires (once you’ve figured them out). An answer comes in a dream. Ponder and plan. It could include travel or discovery. Keep your objective in mind, and meditate for clarity.



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1		7				2		
	8						6	1
					4			
	3		2		5	7	8	
			9					
8	6						1	
		5				8		2
	9	2	3				7	

Level 1234

How to Play
Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

For solutions to today’s puzzle, go to dailygamecock.com or download our app!

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Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams 4/24/14

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ACROSS

1 Condiment often mixed with soy sauce

7 Cowboys-and-Indians toys

14 Help, metaphorically

15 Scrape together

16 Bobby ____: ‘40s-‘50s adolescent girls

17 Teen dieter’s target, perhaps

18 “Stop right there!”

19 Classic pop

21 Start of a personal trainer’s motto

22 ASCAP competitor

24 Phrase from one who sees

27 ____wop music

28 Song of thanksgiving

30 Workaholic’s personality pattern

31 Talk on the street?

32 Zoom

33 Santa’s laughs

36 And the following, in a bibliog.

37 James Bond’s outfit

38 Given to gloom

40 Spot for a snooze

41 Asian soup noodle

43 Trump’s “The ____ the Deal”

44 Vex supremely

46 Guggenheim Museum Bilbao architect

47 OPEC measure

50 Campfire treat

51 Dogfish Head product

52 Sought-after group

54 Courtroom cry

56 “That’s the spot!”

59 Watchman

62 Much-anticipated time

64 Like Little League World Series

65 Dealer’s demand

66 One who decks the halls, say

67 Tachometer part

DOWN

1 Household chore

2 Healthy smoothie ingredient

3 2000 Ben Kingsley crime drama

4 ____appropriate

5 “Who shot J.R.?”

e.g.

6 ____dixit:

unfounded claim

7 Hosp. area for heart patients

8 Alsatian dadaist

9 People, for one

10 Male people

11 Needing nourishment

12 Marsh of mysteries

13 Squabble

15 Piquant sushi choice

20 Google success

23 Hair very apparent?

25 Zenith

26 Field for a fold

28 Infinitesimal division of a min.

29 Middle harmony part

33 Easily angered, or what the answers to 3-, 5-, 9- and 15-Down

appear to be?

34 Stink

35 “Ghost Hunters” network

37 Dog in Kansas

39 Sports analyst

Hershiser

42 River project

45 Mystery writer

Josephine

47 Iraqi seaport

48 Go through the page

49 Techspeak, e.g.

53 Cup-a-Soup direction

55 Abba of Israel

57 Lug

58 Publicist’s job

60 L.A.-to-Helena dir.

61 Kernel holder

63 Merged comm. giant

For solutions to today’s puzzle, go to dailygamecock.com or download our app!

After slump, Gamecocks win 4th-straight game



Jeffrey Davis / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Junior first baseman Kyle Martin extended his hitting streak to 11 games against USC Upstate, going four-for-four at the plate to match his season high for hits in a game.

South Carolina rallies past USC Upstate Spartans

Danny Garrison

DGARRISON@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

The South Carolina baseball team took its time getting on the board Wednesday, falling into an early deficit against USC Upstate, but the Gamecock bats would come alive in due time to secure a 6-1 victory over the Spartans.

“It wasn’t a clean start for us, but it was good to get the win,” head coach Chad Holbrook said. “Some games when you start that way, it’s too tough to climb out of the hole and you end up losing. So I was proud of our guys competing.”

Upstate built a 1-0 lead before many fans had even taken their seats Wednesday night, scoring on a sacrifice fly with just one out in the first inning. But the Spartans would cool off after, that and the Gamecocks (32-10, 10-8 SEC) would hold them scoreless for the rest of the night.

South Carolina didn’t manage to score its first run until the fifth inning, when the Gamecocks lit up USC Upstate for four runs. South Carolina would do more damage in the seventh after junior first baseman Kyle Martin roped an RBI double into right field to match his career high for hits in a game, with four.

Martin’s bat has been hot lately, extending his hit streak to 11 games Wednesday night, and it’s safe to say he has emerged from the slump that bothered him early in the season.

“I feel a little locked in right now,” Martin said. “I didn’t change anything, didn’t change an approach or anything, just kept the same thing and kind of worked myself out of it.”

Matching highs along with Martin were junior third baseman Joey Pankake, whose three hits equaled his best for the season, and freshman Gene Cone, who registered a career-best three hits.

Martin, Pankake, Cone and freshman Marcus Mooney were the only

Gamecocks to register hits in South Carolina’s six-run effort, but three of the four turned in multiple-hit days.

Freshman Matt Vogel got the ball on the mound for his second start of the year and went just 1 2/3 innings in which he walked four and allowed one hit. Sophomore Curt Britt was credited with the win after coming in to relieve Vogel of his duties and turning in 3 2/3 innings of three-hit work, striking out three Spartans.

Righty Hunter Privette continued a strong senior campaign with three perfect innings before sophomore Evan Beal came on to secure the final two outs.

“I’m especially proud of Hunter Privette for the way he pitched,” Holbrook said. “He’s a senior, he’s a captain of our team, hasn’t had many opportunities, and for him to come in a pitch in some pretty tight situations there, I couldn’t be more proud of him.”

Entering Wednesday night’s tilt, Privette had earned a 1-0 record on

the year in five relief appearances. He’s allowed just two hits on the season and he owns a 0.00 earned run average.

South Carolina’s injury troubles have been well documented, with the absence of Max Schrock, Connor Bright, Elliott Caldwell and others leaving gaping holes in the Gamecocks’ lineup. South Carolina received a scare in the sixth when junior catcher Grayson Greiner stayed on the ground after hitting his head on a collision at third base, but he was cleared by the training staff and looks to be ready to go for weekend play.

The Gamecocks’ triumph over USC Upstate extends their current winning streak to four games, and with a pivotal SEC set on the horizon this weekend against Alabama, Holbrook likes the way things look.

“All in all, I’m sitting here, and I’m proud that we’re 32-10,” Holbrook said. “The biggest series of the year’s coming up upon us.”

DG

Softball dispatches South Carolina State

Ard, Lawrence both hit homers to lead offense in win over Bulldogs

J.P. West

SPORTS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

The Gamecock softball team took care of business Wednesday night, making quick work of the Bulldogs of South Carolina State University in a 5-1 result, highlighted by home runs from sophomore Ansley Ard and junior Olivia Lawrence.

Only their second homers of the year, the two were rather unlikely heroines on the night, much to the delight of head coach Beverly Smith, who spoke about the necessity of versatility on the team.

“I think it’s important, because you come into the season, people scout you and know what hitters they’re going to be careful with, so you need different players to step up in every ballgame, and I think it was big that both Olivia and Ansley stepped up tonight,” Smith said.

Ard added that the team has lots of depth, which offers the squad the versatility it needs.

“Honestly, you can pull any of us off the bench, and we’re going to produce,” she said. “It’s amazing how strong our team is.”

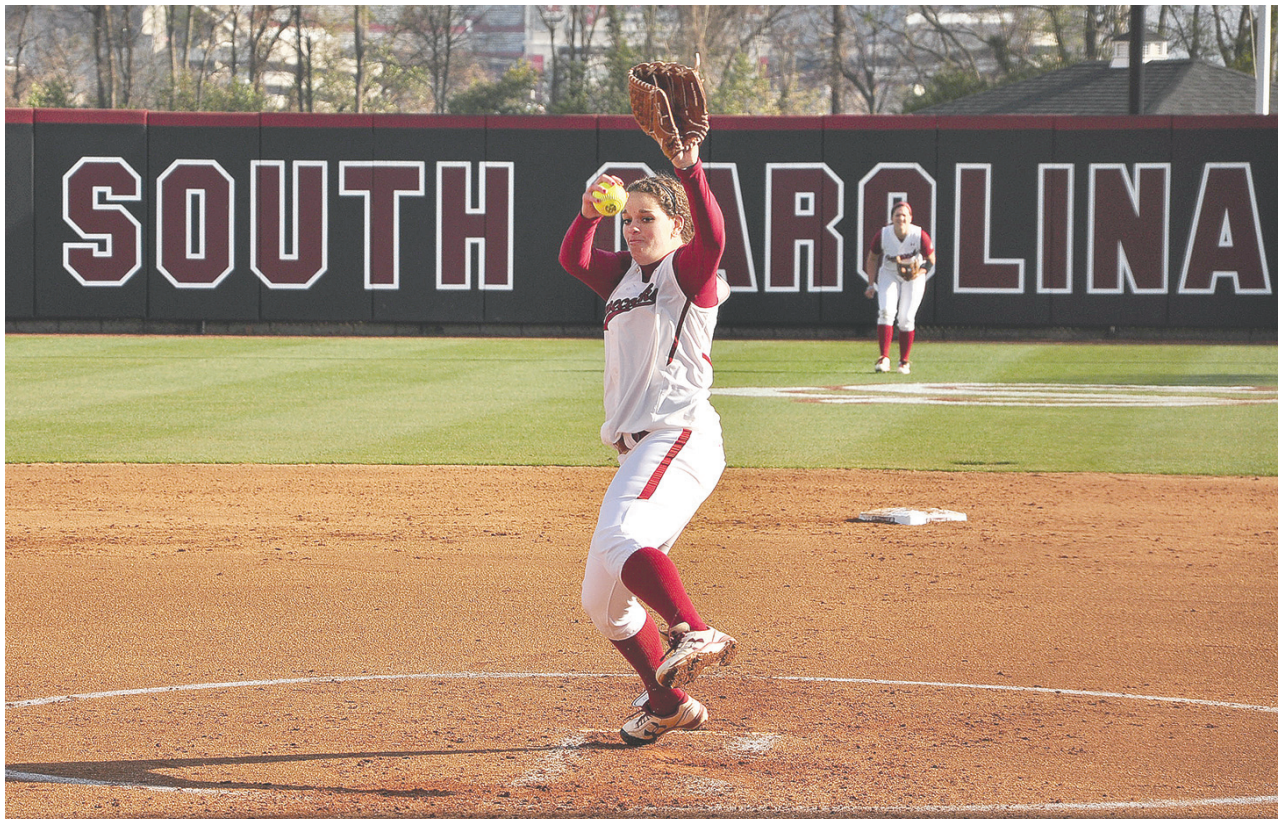
When asked about the two-run blast she had in the bottom of the third, Ard beamed.

“It felt good,” Ard said. “I made a really good adjustment. My first at-bat, she started throwing me inside, so the second one, I backed off the plate. It felt really good.”

On top of her heroics at the plate, Ard also had a spectacular diving catch out in the field during the fifth inning.

Also scoring on the day were senior Ashlyn Masters, who crossed home plate twice, and senior Dana Hathorn, who added another run.

Junior Lakyn Shull was able to notch her first win on the season, pitching five strong innings with only four hits and one earned run allowed. Freshman Nickie Blue came on in relief, throwing two perfect innings, facing six batters



Olivia Barthel / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Freshman Nickie Blue dominated the Bulldogs Wednesday, striking out all six batters she faced in the contest.

and recording six strikeouts. Coach Smith was particularly pleased with Shull’s effort.

“This was a great start for Lakyn,” Smith said. “She won the first five for us, and I thought she did a nice job of keeping their batters off balance. She was really working her screwball in on the hitters, getting a lot of foul balls and getting groundouts so she did a nice job.”

Smith also remarked on how beneficial it is to have a pitcher like Blue come in and just completely shut down an opponent.

“I think the nice thing about Nickie is that she has so many different speeds, she really throws the ball hard. She comes in after Lakyn or Julie, and it’s such a change of speed, and it’s great for us. I’m

glad I see her throwing strikes though. She’s really attacking the strike zone and looking better and better every game. It’s exciting to watch.”

Not in uniform tonight was starting first baseman Kaylea Snaer, who is out indefinitely with a shoulder injury sustained in last Saturday’s game against LSU. Smith seemed vaguely optimistic that she would return before the season’s end.

“She has a dislocated elbow, but we’re hoping her rehab goes well and we’ll see her during the postseason,” Smith said.

The Gamecocks host Longwood in a two-game series this weekend, with games at 6 p.m. Friday and 1 p.m. Saturday.

DG