Rising costs, incompetence and design flaws hampered the now-shuttered construction of two nuclear reactors in Jenkinsville, a rural town located about 30 miles northeast of Columbia.  

Construction on the second and third reactors at Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Generating Station began in 2013, marking the first new construction of a nuclear reactor in the United States in three decades. Though the reactors were expected to be on line in 2017 and 2018, respectively, the vote to abandon construction led to the project’s cancellation last week.

Travis Knight, a professor and project director at USC’s College of Engineering and Computing, sat down with The Daily Gamecock to give an insight into what hampered the project’s tortured history and what will have to be done to move it forward. Knight completed all three of his degrees at the University of Florida and worked at Oak Ridge Nuclear Plant in Lawrence County, Virginia as a part of Department of Energy’s National Laboratories.

Though the reactors were expected to be the first Generation III reactors in the United States in three decades, they were expected to be more efficient and safer than their predecessors. As mentioned in an AP1000 unit in Vogtle nuclear plant in Waynesboro, Georgia. As the name suggests, Generation II reactors include safety features and simplified designs separating them from Generation IIs, which are considered to have ended in the late 1990s.

Westinghouse was cited for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in March, leaving future AP1000 projects in doubt. At the time it declared bankruptcy, Westinghouse was also preparing to build three AP1000 units at Vogtle nuclear plant in Waynesboro, Georgia. As a leader in its field, Vance is attempting to give the students the greatest possible advantage for success in their careers, said Vance.

As this is an approach that is still very much in its infancy, there are many more things that need to be done. As a leader in her field, Vance is digging deeper into this as a potential avenue in the fight against cancer and hopes that it ultimately delivers to humans to prevent cancer entirely.

**Lordo looks to elevate student agenda with Presidents’ Summit**

Student body president Ross Lordo and deputy of government relations Taylor Bradley (right) will represent USC at Saturday’s Student Body Presidents’ Summit in Columbia. Representatives from 19 schools are expected to attend.

USC professor Vicki Vance is attempting to give the students the greatest possible advantage for success in their careers.

**Botany professor focuses on dietary acids to prevent cancer cells**

John Warrington

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Wednesday, August 9, 2017

“We have to provide all options... and that includes a military option.”
— National security adviser H.R. McMaster addressing North Korean advancements in missile technology Saturday on MSNBC’s “The Hugh Hewitt Show”

Women’s soccer ranked No. 4 in preseason poll, two Gamecocks on Hermann Trophy watch list

USC’s women’s soccer team has achieved their highest preseason ranking in program history. After finishing the 2016 season at No. 5 in the United Soccer Coaches poll, the Gamecocks took the No. 4 spot Thursday in the first poll of the 2017 season. USC is joined in the top 10 by SEC rivals Florida (No. 7) and Auburn (No. 10).

Sophomore goalkeeper Mikayla Krzeczowski and senior forward Savannah McCaskill were also named Tuesday to the MAC Hermann Trophy watchlist for 2017. College soccer’s equivalent of the Heisman, the Hermann Trophy is awarded by the Missouri Athletic Club annually to the nation’s top male and female college soccer players.

The Gamecocks open their 23rd season Thursday with an exhibition game at College of Charleston. They open the regular season at home Aug. 18 against Central Florida.
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Locally, student body president Lords says he believes a "firm and established relationship" is key between student government and Columbia city leaders. But with help from at least one notable USC student government official, he hopes to forge that relationship during his time in office.

"You have such an integration of our student life and our student experience in the city of Columbia that we need to further build the relationship of our students at the local level," Lords said. "Because that's where students are going and interacting on a daily basis."

While an undergraduate, Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin was also a USC student body president in 1990.

The section concerning state government advocacy quickly acknowledges South Carolina's considerable decreases in university spending that have placed the state 47th in the nation in higher education investment. Also noted are efforts made by neighboring states to invest funds for higher education funding and the necessity to "engage the South Carolina State Government." Lords states, "when you look at the population of over 100,000 students in South Carolina, that is a population that the state government has to acknowledge and respond to just as much as any population of that size."

"When you look at higher education in the state, if you say that you care about South Carolina as a legislator, as much as any population of that size," Lordo said. "And the state government has to acknowledge and respond to just as much as any population of that size."

"When you look at the future of the state," added USC's implementation officer Melissa Byars, chief advisor to the summit's importance to student bodies, Lordo said, "I think it's more important than ever to advocate on the future of higher education in South Carolina," Lordo said.

Aside from Lordo and Bradley, USC will be represented by chief of staff Kathryn Stoudemire, chief implementation officer Melissa Byars, chief advisor to the student-specific provisions place emphasis on fighting substance abuse and sexual assault on campus. The proclamation calls on representatives "recognize the positive impact of" the It's On Us campaign, which signed by former Gov. Nikki Haley 21 months later.

Financially, a restart could be difficult. When SCANA announced it was ceasing construction on July 31, the company petitioned Public Service Commission of South Carolina to abandon the project. Based in Cayce, SCANA held a 55 percent stake in the project. According to Bloomberg News, state power authority Santee Cooper, which held the remaining 45 percent stake, claimed shutting the project would save customers $7 billion. Both announcements came shortly after Tokyo-based Toshiba Corporation, parent company of Westinghouse, promised to pay $2.2 billion to SCANA and Santee Cooper whether the reactors were finished or not.

Meanwhile, residents of Fairfield County, in which Jenkinsville resides, absorbed much of the blow after the plant's abandonment. The State reported Sunday that about 30 county residents lost their jobs in the weeks before and after SCANA's July 31 announcement. 500 of those left unemployed worked on the reactor's construction site. Located directly north of Richland County, Fairfield County has about 22,000 residents. But Knight is hopeful that the project gains new footing. One potential investor he sees is the federal government, which he believes should have an interest in seeing a Generation III reactor built at a time when other nations are beginning shift away from the use of fossil fuels for energy. And once the U.S. builds one plant, Knight said, building more should become easier with experience. "China's building a few of everything nuclear," Knight said. "Having a robust industry where you're getting orders on a regular basis, and you're keeping workers in the field, engaged... there's a benefit that is passed on to the next plant when you build it. So the first one, there's some learning that's involved, that can be passed on to the future plants."

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A previous delay, which Knight emphasizes was not a major factor, came from an unexpected redesign. According to Knight, concerns were raised in the aftermath of 9/11 about the possibility of aircrafts intentionally impacting nuclear power plants. Even though the AP1000 design has already been completed and approved in 2003, Westinghouse commissioned a new plant to cover the concrete walls of the plant in steel plates. "I don't think that was the most significant feature here, but without a doubt, it did delay the final design's approval," Knight said.

The most obvious reason the project will need to resume, Knight said, is investors. "If you lose your partner, as [SC&EA] did, you kind of leave them between a rock and a hard place," Knight said.

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Review: ‘The Dark Tower’ is full of unanswered questions

Stefy Hidner
star-arts

The Dark Tower is based on a series of novels by Stephen King, and the weekend it came out, it won the weekend box office…maybe it shouldn’t have, though. The movie starts off on a confusing note, and stays there for a while. There are a lot of holes that Arcel, the director, doesn’t care to fill in. (Perhaps because there is supposed to be a TV series coming out soon.) Now, if you’re expecting a thrilling and ominous movie (soon), Now, if you’re expecting to be a TV series coming out soon), Jake Chambers, played by Tom Taylor, is a struggling teen who keeps having bad dreams which coincide with earthquakes, but Chambers feels like there is a bigger meaning. His visions are finally named: Jake has something called the shine, and it is allowing him to see the horrors in another world. The major theme in his dreams is this dark tower that someone is attempting to topple. It features 40 pieces from 28 different contemporary artists related to tools, home building and the connection of these pieces to the world around us. Throughout August, the final month of the exhibition, the Columbia Museum of Art will launch a lecture series that coincides with ReTooled.

The perfect weekend guide to Greenville

Zoe Nicholas
star-arts

Greenville, I’m sure you’ve heard of it, the booming city in the Upstate where the SEC basketball tournament took place and half of friends are from. The city situated in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains is teeming with cool restaurants, exciting (and free) events and lots of outdoor activities. The perfect weekend destination, here’s a list of the top spots to visit when you head up 26 to G-Vegas (we’re working on the nickname):

Food, food and more food

Happy + Hale: The Raleigh-based healthy fast-casual restaurant has quickly become one of the most popular places in town. Smoothies, poke bowls and more await you in the Main Street location. Check out Southern Pressed, Juice Theory and the Hechinger Collection.

Drive-In theater to open in Bowman

Jenna Schiferl
star-arts

A new drive-in movie theater will open in South Carolina on Aug. 18. Located in Bowman, South Carolina, the theater is a partnership between Yonder Field and Highway 21 Drive-In. Yonder Field is a versatile concert, festival and event space that is set to officially open in late August with the Solar Eclipse Festival. In conjunction with a festival experience, Yonder Field also offers the option for guests to tailgate before the event or camp out overnight. The theater will start with one screen, but will expand to three films on three separate screens stationed on the 200-acre lot in September. "We thought it would be a great way to utilize Yonder Field beyond the season and everyone loves the Drive-In, right? It’s great to be in the open air and our beautiful landscape will serve as an incredible backdrop for a full night of fun," said Yonder Field spokeswoman Laurie Fultz. Fultz mentioned that while the drive-in does not currently allow overnight campers, it is a foreseeable possibility in the future. However, the theater does include a live music performance from local bands 90 minutes before each screening, as well as lawn games, traditional movie concessions and a food truck festival experience, Yonder Field will open in South Carolina on Aug. 18. Located in Bowman, South Carolina, the theater is a partnership between Yonder Field and Highway 21 Drive-In.
The American Imagination." The museum hopes to draw people to the lectures from all different walks of life. Historic preservation transcends generations, and the lectures will attempt to convey the importance of this to its attendees. While the art itself may be something people enjoy, Vaughn says that the art can ultimately be used as a tool to generate a conversation about the history of a community regarding the creation and preservation of community identity.

"The art ... gives us a springboard to approach people about the important everyday topics like community, Vaughn explains. Museums often give a give-and-take relationship with the city in which they reside; they have a way of pulling in members of the community to be involved with a project, who, in turn, can educate the greater public about topics that may not often be explored. The CMA wants people to learn something new and walk away with a better understanding of historic preservation and community building. This is a brief description of the remaining lectures scheduled this month:

- "The Master of Plaster"
- "The Infl uence of Mount Vernon"
- "Tanya Taylor"
- "Swamp Rabbit Cafe and Grocery"
- "Everything Else"
- "The Dark Tower"

One of Greenville's natural wonders, Falls Park is worth a visit while in the upstate. Craft stores anchor the downtown street and offers everything from shopping, eating and tons of events like Downtown Alive and the TD Farmers Market on Saturday mornings (think Soda City Market, but bigger). Warehouse Theatre, Fluor Field and the insta-worthy Falls Park all sit on the one-mile stretch.

Swamp Rabbit Trail: Stretching from Traveler's Rest to the edge of Greenville, the 20-mile trail is an easy trail perfect for walking, running and especially biking. Funky restaurants are dotted along the trail, so bring cash and be sure to rent a bike.

Taylors Mill: About 20 minutes from Main Street, the renovated mill features a weekly market, tons of artist studios, Dye South Coffee and 11 Stripes — a gritty-looking brewery with lots of offerings and plenty of space.

Tipsy Taco: A little out of the ways (also downtown) if the line is too long. Garden Grill: Farm to Table, pizza and a purgatory-level area that is worth the large groups of middle schoolers and angry moms and their minivans. Not worth the trip. In a city overflowing with tacos, the Pelham Road taco joint offers the best atmosphere, biggest servings and best drinks. It's too freaking good. Willy Taco, Papa's Farmhouse Tacos and a newly-opened White Duck Taco Shop are all serving up hipster-friendly taco fare.

South Main Street is a picturesque spot by the Swamp Rabbit Cafe and Grocery: Farm to Table, pizza and a purgatory-level area that is worth the large groups of middle schoolers and angry moms and their minivans. Not worth the trip. In a city overflowing with tacos, the Pelham Road taco joint offers the best atmosphere, biggest servings and best drinks. It's too freaking good. Willy Taco, Papa's Farmhouse Tacos and a newly-opened White Duck Taco Shop are all serving up hipster-friendly taco fare.

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The South Carolina offense has the potential to be elite in 2017, but one question remains — will the offensive line hold up? How the line will hold up in actual games remains — will the offensive line hold up?

The hardest job for co-offensive coordinator Bryan McClendon in 2017 could be deciding which receivers to have on the field.

USC’s offensive line allowed 41 sacks last season, tied for most in the SEC.

Jake Bentley is taking snaps from under center during fall camp for the first time in his career.

The DJ, along with in-game hype videos displayed on the videoboard and a revamped recruiting entrance, is part of the strategy to boost the image of the South Carolina football program to talented high school prospects.

The number one priority is the recruit and putting on a great show for the recruit,” said Nichols, who is in his ninth year at USC, “and that was not always the case.”

Nichols says that the focus sometimes in the past was geared toward pleasing different sections of the fan base, but going forward, the game experience will be geared toward the recruits on the sideline.

“We’re just trying to see some different things,” Bentley said Tuesday. “Alan Knott is a great center. He is so smart. He sees stuff before I do most of the time and just getting that chemistry with him has been great.”

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The traditionalist fans were definitely kept in mind throughout the decision-making process, as Nichols said the DJ wouldn’t take away from the band, a statement Will Muschamp echoed at his July 30 press conference. Muschamp said it was very important to keep the Carolina Band in a prominent role, referring to the group as “Band Central.”

Nichols ensures that the DJ will only be playing in the times that music was being played before, to avoid overwhelming the band, which he says is one of the defining differences between college and professional football.

But when the DJ is playing:

“The times that the band doesn’t play, we had to make better,” Nichols said.

To do that, Nichols and the rest of the decision-makers are turning to the players to help make the hire.

“We want the players to have significant input in the decision, so the intent is to bring someone and let them play at practice,” Nichols said.

McClendon said that he’d like to have six or two.

McClendon said that he doesn’t want Smith to be a one-trick pony.

Shi might find playing time. “They can be a threat with the ball in his hands, both on offense and special teams, and many expect him to see time in the slot.”

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Will Muschamp has been very clear that there’s no established linebacker depth on the South Carolina defense this season, but he’s been encouraged by what he’s seen from one freshman in particular early in camp.

Inside linebacker Sherrod Greene has impressed coaches and players through the early days of camp. He comes up first when Muschamp and defensive coordinator Travaris Robinson talk about young standouts, and he’s getting praise from his fellow linebackers as well.

“He’s probably one of the faster linebackers that we have right now,” said T.J. Brunson, one of USC’s three experienced starters. “From the newcomers, he’s definitely turned some heads.”

Speed is crucial for Greene, who is the team’s second-heaviest linebacker at 223 pounds. A former three-star recruit who picked the Gamecocks over Alabama, Greene racked up 250 tackles over his last two seasons at Rocky Mount High School in North Carolina, claiming a state title as a junior.

Greene has been working with the second-team through the start of fall camp, but he struggled with a one-on-one blocking drill during the first week. The 6-foot-1, 223-pound freshman faced a lot of run-based offenses in high school, so he’s still adjusting to SEC spread looks.

“He’s definitely got to get used to playing in space,” Brunson said. “He’s definitely going to be fine.”

Behind Greene, other newcomers are looking to make the leap, including JUCO transfer Eldridge Thompson and freshman Damanti Staley, both of whom are going through position changes.

“Eldridge Thompson is a guy,” Robinson said. “Damanti Staley is a guy that’s coming along. We moved Davonne Bowen inside... It’s a lot of stuff we’re throwing at them, so when we saturate it to a gameday, gameplan-type deal, then it will be better.”

The Gamecocks have three more freshman linebackers listed on the roster in Cole Davis, Alex DeLoach and Sean McGonigal, but it’s Greene, Staley, Bowen and Thompson who should be the next guys up behind the three starters.

“T h e y h a v e t h r e e m o r e f r a s h m a n l i n e b a c k e r s l o c k e d o n t h e r o s t e r i n C o l e D a v i s , A l e x D e L o a c h a n d S e a n M c G o n i g a l , b u t i t ’ s G r e e n e , S t a l e y , B o w e n a n d T h o m p o n w h o s h o u l d b e t h e n e x t g u y s u p b e h i n d t h e t h r e e s t a r t e r s ,”

“T h e y h a v e b e e n i m p r e s s i v e ,” H u r s t s a i d . “ T h e y a r e p h y s i c a l , u n d e r s t a n d i n g b l o c k s . I h a v e b e e n i m p r e s s e d w i t h t h o s e g u y s j u s t a s a w h o l e u n i t .”

The group gave up 41 sacks last season.
While I’ve been on summer vacation, I have spent a lot of time reading books.

At one point in my life, I exclusively read fiction novels for pleasure. But then I started hearing the story of how the world was changing. Suddenly, I found myself reading more and more non-fiction books. 

I discovered that I loved reading about the Arab-Israeli conflict, thebermuda triangle, and how the world was changing. I started reading more about the world and the people in it. This led me to read more about the Arab-Israeli conflict and the history of the world. 

I have been reading non-fiction books for the past few years, and I have found them to be more interesting and engaging than fiction. I think that non-fiction books are a great way to learn about the world and the people in it.
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