has been working in food service at the Management, but the tournament has a lot of value for students from the School of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Relations to retail. These students gain valuable service industry experience at a major national sporting event.

Some students even further removed from hospitality-related majors are working internships with the Masters to help further their careers. Second-year print journalism student Matt Marsella, who works for the sports section of The Daily Gamecock, said he hopes to learn from the media organizations at the event.

The event is held by the Stand Up Carolina initiative, which is a part of the University of South Carolina’s Student Health Services in one complex. Currently, the various branches of Student Health Services, such as campus wellness and counseling services, are spread across five different locations on campus.

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One of the biggest things that we’ve excited about is that we’re all going to be in a central location,” said Marguerite Duffie, Public Relations and Marketing Director for SHS.
“Out of nowhere, I was out of breath and I couldn’t breathe. When I woke up ... I couldn’t even talk.”

— Computer information systems student Ryan Chisom to The State on a Mar. 19 assault outside Pour House that left him with a broken jaw.

“You couldn’t even talk.”

I hereby notify the European Council in accordance with Article 50(2) of the Treaty on European Union of the United Kingdom’s intention to withdraw from the European Union.”

— U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May in a Wednesday letter to European Council President Donald Tusk

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— Dawn Staley after Monday’s Elite Eight win over Florida State
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We congratulate USC’s men’s and women’s basketball teams for earning spots in the Final Four. Keep on pedaling.

The construction of the new health center will also include renovations to the primary student health building, Thomson Student Health Center. The two buildings will be connected by walkways and will combine to form a 100,000 square-foot student health complex.

We’re looking at all the needs of the student, not just what’s brought into the office,” said Jackie Knight, assistant director of Healthy Carolina Initiatives. “It’s basically essentially important to acknowledge our women leaders at Carolina because they are so important in acknowledging and empowering other women, so it’s a celebration of females as a whole,” said Chelsea Johannson, the event organizer and a higher education and student affairs masters student. “Our goal is to celebrate them as a cohort and as a collection of achieving women versus one over the other, because frankly, when one woman wins, we all win.”

We’re really excited to actually meet the demand that we’re seeing for those classes,” Knight said. The new health center will also allow SHS to focus on their Patient Centered Medical Home model, which will provide consistent, comprehensive care that considers all aspects of health and wellness.

“We see the value of being beyond the shadows. Having legal status opens many doors,” Medina said. “With it comes the opportunity to drive and work legally and most importantly, the opportunity to live without the fear and threat of deportation. For many women gaining legal status is what propels them to leave abusive relationships, seek help and more forward with their lives.”

This award has been given out since 1991, and is held specifically for female USC students who hold a 3.0 GPA or higher, with 60 credit hours or more with the university, as well as being actively involved with bettering the community.

“Come take part in all the services that we offer,” she said. “We offer so much more than just a doctor’s office visit when you’re sick.”

Her plans for the future are to go into law school and eventually become an immigration attorney. “Just kind of goes to show that there really is no barriers to what you can do. I think, sometimes being... a person of color there are certain expectations about what we can do,” Medina said, “but I hope this serves as an example to the young women coming behind me that do look like me or can identify with me in some sort of way that they too are capable of doing a lot.”

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Birdcage Performer Profile: TeQui’la Mockingbird

Jenna Schiferl
STATE/10-21

Performer: Audria Byrd

Queer: TeQui’la Mockingbird

Last semester, Audria Byrd was crowned Ms. Gaymecock at the annual amateur drag performance hosted by Individuals Recognizing Identities and Sexualities. The main prize for the winners of Ms. and Ms. Gaymecock was an invitation to perform in Birdcage, a formal drag show, among a group of professional drag queens in the spring.

Byrd is a student leader at USC. She is a member of HERIS, FemCo, and is involved with the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs. For the past two years, she has been an LGBTQ peer advocate and is a discussion leader for the group “Being an LGBTQ Person of Color.” As a LGBTQ peer leader, she gives information sessions to University101 courses, sorority chapters and women and gender studies courses.

She attended the National Young Feminist Leadership Conference last weekend with FemCo in Washington, D.C. At the event, she spoke on a panel and led a caucus space.

“I put to inject a lot of my experiences as a black, trans woman into that space, which was generally pretty white, cis and heteronormative,” Byrd said.

Byrd, a four-year media arts and African American studies student, is also a transgender woman. She is passionate about correcting the lack diversity in mass media today.

“I really like being able to make my own media. Something I’ve gotten really into throughout my time in college and growing up is recognizing how messed up and few and far between media representation of minority groups are,” she said.

Byrd grew up in Greenville, South Carolina, and started performing at an early age.

“I was a very shy kid, but then I would go on stage and be totally comfortable,” Byrd said. Her performance debut was in an elementary school play. She eventually became involved with community theatre, and as she entered high school started working with a talent agent.

She noted the impact that performance has had on her life.

“It has brought me out of myself. It has helped me to contribute to my confidence, because performance and public speaking and interacting with other people is a part of my life, and that is something that drag gave me,” Byrd said.

She addressed the fact that drag culture can sometimes be misogynistic or transphobic, but also acknowledged that for some, drag is a safe outlet to express their gender identity.

“I know that sometimes, this has been an interesting and a little bit contentious way to express my gender identity and to express gender nonconformity,” she said. Byrd also addressed that although Birdcage is a dynamic and fun event, it could be improved through LGBTQ education.

She emphasized the difference between transgender women and drag queens, and commented on the occasional problematic undertones that can be present in drag culture.

“I recognize that there are cis gay involved in drag performance, but it could be improved in drag culture. I recognize that there are cis gay involved in drag performance, but it could be improved in drag culture.

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New Music: Khalid Robinson debut album

Jenna Schiferl
STATE/10-21

Earlier this month, 19-year-old El Paso native Khalid Robinson released his debut studio album, titled “American Teen.” Robinson, who is better known by his mononym Khalid, is an up and coming artist that effortlessly blends the divide between a pop and R&B musician. A year ago Khalid was a high school senior, unsigned to any label and uploading songs to SoundCloud. Since its release on March 3, “American Teen” has climbed the U.S. pop music charts, and on March 27 reached the top spot on the Billboard 200.

Kenna Coe
@kenna_coe

When in Phoenix...

As the Gamecocks secured their spot in the Final Four, many avid fans began making travel plans to watch the monumental game in real life. Whether you booked a pricey plane ticket or decided to road-trip 30 hours from Columbia, there’s a once in a lifetime experience ahead of you. Most of your time out West will be spent cheering on the Gamecocks, here are some places to check out in Phoenix to make the trip extra memorable.

Kenna Coe
@kenna_coe

When in Phoenix...
Based on a recommendation from a friend that the hummus is “the best,” I decided to check out one of those unnoticed places across the street from the Honors residence hall at 629 Main Street. Sahara on Main definitely did not disappoint, hummus or otherwise.

Sahara on Main is a little hole-in-the-wall spot within walking distance of the Horseshoe that gives Columbia an authentic taste of Mediterranean food. The menu offers a wide variety of food — everything from salads, kabobs and wraps, to pizza, pasta and burgers. The atmosphere is very chill, and the decorations are really cute. With a carpet on the wall and colorful lamps, it had a slightly Middle Eastern vibe. They have an abundance of seating, although there were only three or four parties sitting around. The menus and tables weren’t the cleanest, but once you get the food, you forget you were ever worried about that.

The service is fast and the food is tasty. Arriving before 6 p.m. on a Tuesday night, my friend and I placed our orders and received our food in less than 10 minutes. Our waitress double checked our orders and kept our drinks full. We ordered the hummus appetizer, a lamb shawarma on pita bread and a lamb gyro to split between the two of us. The house-made hummus came with house-made pita bread, and it was, in fact, the best. The two entrees tasted fresh and had a lot of wonderful spiced Mediterranean flavor. Paying for the hummus and the shawarma, the total was $15.43 before tax and tip.

It’s a little on the pricier side, especially after tipping your server (which you definitely should because the service was awesome). Although they do have a carry out option if you don’t want to dine in, I wouldn’t recommend you go here every day if you want to keep your bank account happy.

Their hours are 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. and if you’re in need of lunch or dinner that isn’t from Russel House, I would definitely recommend you visit Sahara on Main, but only if you get the hummus. Either way, Sahara on Main does a good job of making authentic Mediterranean food that fills you up.
Food is an essential part of traveling to new cities. For breakfast, check out Matt’s Big Breakfast located in downtown Phoenix on North First Street. The restaurant was featured on Food Network’s Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives with Guy Fieri and his favorite item on the menu is the Chop & Chick. If you’re looking for cheap eats, Mucha Lucha Taco Shop serves tacos, nachos and burritos, each for under $10. The fast, casual restaurant makes for an easy pre-game meal, plus it’s only a short drive to the stadium. Don’t forget to visit a famed In-N-Out Burger before coming back to Columbia, since the burger chain can only be found out West.

Entertainment-wise, the March Madness Music Festival is Friday through Sunday and is free to the public. Headliners include The Chainsmokers, Aerosmith, Blink-182, Keith Urban, Macklemore and Ryan Lewis and many more who will be performing over the course of the weekend. Check out the schedule on the March Madness Music Festival website for the specific times and the full list of artists. Make sure to arrive at Margaret T. Hance Park early to claim the best viewing spot.

Spend some time enjoying the parts of Phoenix that make the city unique. The Roosevelt Row Arts District, also known as RoRo, includes murals created by local artists in the heart of downtown Phoenix. Look carefully because some of the wall art is harder to spot than the more obvious pieces. For the foodies and shoppers, Roosevelt Row also has a wide variety of restaurants and boutiques that cannot be found elsewhere.

Another way to explore the state is to take a few hours to soak up the Arizona sun. Camelback Mountain is about a 30-minute drive from downtown Phoenix. The peak of the mountain has the most visitation in the spring months, so the view of Arizona will be at its prime. Be prepared to go early because the parking lot closes once it’s full.

The number one travel tip is to wear garnet and black at all times and to yell “Go Cocks” in all public places. For those of you lucky enough to watch the Gamecocks take on Gonzaga in Phoenix, all of us in Columbia will be living vicariously through you.
EIGHTH GRADE

Khalid is now signed to RCA Records, a label that has notably partnered with many “big name” pop artists including Justin Timberlake, Miley Cyrus, Chris Brown and Pitbull, among others. Khalid’s smooth synth-pop melodies give his music a distinctive, yet incredibly catchy sound that complements the upbeat bass lines present in most of the tracks on the album. His rich and soulful vocals are characteristic of crooner contemporaries such as Leon Bridges and Allen Stone. This style adds depth and maturity to his music and seems to echo that of R&B classics. So much so that Khalid’s lyrics are the sole indication that Khalid is a teenager.

“American Teen” chronicles the highlights and pitfalls of high school, social life and adolescence. Youth and vitality are reoccurring themes throughout Khalid’s music, generally eliciting feelings of nostalgia for those who relate to millennial culture.

As the title suggests, “8TEEN” is an ode to being 18 years old. In the chorus, Khalid states, “I’ve never fell in love / I saved those feelings for you / So let’s do all the stupid shit that young kids do.” Khalid’s top single “Location” skyrocketed after Kylie Jenner featured a clip of it on her Snapchat story last May. In this song he pleads with a love interest to send him her location in order to meet up. These types of lyrics are present in a lot of Khalid’s music; and, although they occasionally distract from the music itself, they paint a warm and romantic image of youth. “Falling in love in high school and falling out of love – it’s very digital,” Khalid told Rolling Stone. “I’ve had breakups where they’ve called me to tell me we were done, and I’ve gotten a lot of text messages from an old girlfriend letting me know how she felt about me after we had ended everything.”

Overall, Khalid’s album is worth a listen. It’s full of potential summer anthems, and it balances R&B, pop and indie music well, without being overbearing. Although he’s new to the music scene, Khalid is certainly going places.
or understanding of the LGBTQ community,” Byrd said. “But I also recognize that drag and that music is very important part of LGBTQ culture, and it is a very important way to express ourselves and stand up against cis, hetero norms of society.

Byrd became exposed to drag culture as soon as she got to USC. It had always piqued her interest, but she had never formally performed in drag until last fall. TeQui’la Mockingbird, Byrd’s on-stage drag persona, was self-characterized as very confident and cocky.

“When I’m about to go on stage to perform for theatre, a lot of what helps combat any nervousness or anxiety that I feel is that I am not going on stage as myself, but as a character,” Byrd said. Regarding TeQui’la’s appearance, Byrd mentioned her reluctance to perform with long, straight hair.

“Something that I like to do in my daily life and in my appearance and in my performance is to affirm and celebrate my blackness, my ethnic identity. This is another small way to do that,” she said.

A host of local drag queens will perform at Birdcage, with the headliner Manila Luzon, who was featured on the third season of RuPaul’s Drag Race. You can see Byrd perform at USC’s 20th annual Birdcage on April 4 in the Russell House Ballroom at 7 p.m.
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The Best of Carolina Just Got Better!
Freedom Caucus acts as important opposition to Trump

Bryce Wilson
First-year finance student

To the relief of many, myself included, the Affordable Healthcare Act failed to receive the required supporters in order for Speaker Paul Ryan to bring the bill to a vote. As my fellow columnist Linden Anderck pointed out in her column, the failure of GOP leadership to get the required vote came from an in-party revolt by the Republicans, led by the Freedom Caucus. This being the first time many Americans have heard of this group, many of us are asking the questions: Who exactly are the Freedom Caucus? And what do they stand for?

Notable members of the Freedom Caucus are Rep. Rand Paul (R-KY). Rep. Justin Amash (R-MI) and Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY) who were the most outspoken against the president’s plan to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act — or, Obamacare. But why exactly did these three oppose a piece of legislation that was supported by their own party?

To start, all three of these men and women draw a distinct line between the Freedom Caucus and those of the Libertarian or Conservative Party. Their have an emphasis on small government, which is why they opposed the ObamaCare bill, and, more importantly, why they couldn’t stand by Trumpcare as a sustainable policy. This has already proven costly to the administration and GOP leadership with the failure of the American Healthcare Act. But it seems that instead of addressing the concerns of its constituents, the GOP has resorted to the same bully-like tactics that placed President Trump in the White House. Following the failure of the bill, President Trump took to his favorite outlet: Twitter. The president’s run with the Freedom Caucus and, more importantly, his response to the bill’s failure highlights the epitome of what is wrong with politics today. Instead of open debate, compromise and the ability to listen and respect the other side of the argument — the hallmark of a successful democracy — the American people have yet to see the attempt to force policies and legislation down the throats of the people.

The GOP establishment has declared war against the Freedom Caucus, resulting in Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX) stepping down from the caucus. And some political INSIDER hypothesize that he might not be the only casualty for the Freedom Caucus. However, it is important for Democrats and moderate Republicans alike to stand with the Freedom Caucus. If either of these groups hope to keep President Trump in check during his term, they will need some help from the Republican Party since it controls both the House and the Senate. In reality, there are now two faces to the party. That face that can be dismantled by the president and the GOP establishment. The support of average citizens is what will help determine its fate.

I would like to say that you would have to be living under a rock to have not heard how drastically our climate is changing. As if that wasn’t enough, even things that live under rocks are being impacted. Especially if we break a new record for World’s Hottest Year. American citizens are disappearing, and we are leaving 2017 with a record hotter than greater than the one that killed the dinosaurs. Our situation is literally as human as it gets. So, why would you say that makes you say that our future is Trumpcare for whatever will kill us all? The future climate change is worse than a solid bet.

As the time of global warming, heat crises and crop failure that most people point to, we have already begun dismantling it, with the removal of the Clean Water rule several weeks ago, and now Trump is pushing an executive order that, among other things, removes restrictions on oil leasing, and mostly disappearing. But it’s not that Trump will struggle with the burden of considering climate change when making decisions. It’s that he is easily seduced by the politics of the moment, putting blinders on, turning a blind eye and blocking our way. And I hope you just sit down and enjoy this. But, he’s smiling even as his face melts?

Nick Sembracht
Third-year business and economics student

One handwritten letter has set into motion world-changing events that have been months in the making. The United Kingdom has invoked article 50, an exit strategy for countries to leave the European Union. Now, the country will have two years to negotiate trade deals with the continent. The same populist movement that gave rise to Brexit renewed in Americans electing Donald Trump to the presidency. However, the result of that election may only be an example of the apple falling close to the tree. Fears that populist governments would spring up throughout Europe signaling an end of the European Union have begun to be allayed. Geert Wilders in the Netherlands lost ground on his more traditional political opponent as the status quo appears to be regaining traction in Europe.

It is a subtle reminder that populism, even though it has the potential to drastically alter countries, is also temporary. The election of one populist officer in one country does not signal the doom of a traditional politician in another. The same can be said of Trump in the United States. Just because the man was elected in one cycle, does not mean the movement will continue for the last time. Politicians are meant to represent and listen to the will of the people. There are times when populism is the best way to go about a situation. In 2016, President Andrew Jackson was one of such example of a president that represented the will of the common man. Donald Trump tapped into the anger and frustration of a base that felt as if they had been abandoned by the government. He spoke in ways that were different, and he spoke directly to his base in a way that no candidate had before. He promised to bring jobs back to America and to promote industry in the United States. His level of success at achieving his goal will be a good indication of the future of American politics. If he breaks the jobs he has had and makes America great again, then we very well may see candidates like Trump in the near future. But, if his presidency lays through his term with no job’s lost, the way it was unrolled and ObamaCare still in place, the Trumpcare will still all butawan. It is up to both political parties to implement the laws that proper governance still exists.

Letters to the editor must not exceed 200 words. Each must include their full name, major and year. Faculty and staff must include their full name, position and department. Community members must include their full name and applicable job title. Verifiable statements of fact must include at least one source. If you cannot verify a statement of fact, your letter will not be published until the writer implements necessary changes or provides reputable sources for any facts in question. Letters are edited for clarity, style and grammar.

Climate policy ignorant

Olivia Harris
Third-year psychology student

Setbacks frustrate populist surge

The Daily Gamecock
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**HOROSCOPES**

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**leo**

Let go of old business, as a new professional opportunity requires your full attention. Study the situation. Follow the rules and be observant with details. Use your own good judgment.

**Virgo**

Plan your itinerary before dashing off. Rely on the experience of someone trusted. Follow the rules and be observant with details.

**Libra**

Money flows in, along with a possible career advancement. Consider the long haul. Share advice and ideas. Allow your partner temporary veto power.

**Scorpio**

Support your partner and support your business. Allow your partner temporary veto power. Plan your itinerary before dashing off. Rely on the experience of someone trusted. Follow the rules and be observant with details. Use your own good judgment.

**Aquarius**

Share your network. A beautiful new business relationship is forming through connecting with someone. Stay home if you’re away. Conflicting or unclear requirements clarification. Work it out.

**Sagittarius**

Advance to the next level with your work, health or physical efforts. Adapt for developing needs. Listen to someone who’s been where you’re going. Savor life and love.

**Pisces**

Sagittarius

**Crossword**

Edited by Wesley Rogers Williams

Thursday, March 30, 2017

**HOROSCOPES**

**Aries**

Take action on a profitable opportunity for long-term benefits (perhaps not immediately apparent). Extra surprises could delay fun or travel. Resist extra surprises could delay fun or travel. Resist

**Taurus**

You’re more confident and less patient; moderating your temper and your speed with tasks and chores. Chill out when you can.

**Gemini**

Keep a low profile. Slow to avoid costly mistakes. Recharge between tasks and chores. Support your partner and support your business. Allow your partner temporary veto power. Plan your itinerary before dashing off. Rely on the experience of someone trusted. Follow the rules and be observant with details. Use your own good judgment.

**Cancer**

Advance a team project successfully. Build up with a backup plan to work around breakdowns. Something small will lead to silver lining. Collaborate for long-term benefit.
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And in that prediction, even Frank Martin may have understated the importance that Chris Silva would eventually carry for this team. In his sophomore season, Silva has seen statistical improvements in nearly every major statistic category. He saw his points per game nearly double, his rebounds per game nearly double, his free throw percentage increase by nearly 10 percent and his field goal percentage grow by just over five percent. He recorded nearly 20 more blocks in his sophomore campaign, and played almost seven more minutes a game.

Yet, possibly the most showing state of Silva’s importance to the Gamecocks is how they did when he wasn’t on the floor. This season for Silva, foul trouble has been a major issue that reviewed his importance to the team in which he fouled out this season. South Carolina was 1-7 in games that he didn’t play.

Prediction 2: “We’ve got some other guys there [at guard], as they continue to grow and get better [we can continue to play PJ] and Sinn [off the ball a little bit].”

In this comment, Martin didn’t quite specify who exactly those “other guys” were, and maybe at the time even he wasn’t positive, but it’s pretty clear in the emergence of Rakym Felder that he was right about the depth and the versatility his team.

Coming into the season, not many knew exactly what to make of the 5-foot-10-inch guard out of Brooklyn. In high school, he was labeled as a strong defender and finisher at the rim, but had been hampered by injury and suspension in the offseason. Yet after his 15 point explosion against Duke in the Elite Eight that saw him gain nine from the floor, many started taking notice.

Yet after his 15-point explosion against Duke in the Elite Eight that saw him gain nine from the floor, many started taking notice. In his sophomore season, Silva has seen statistical improvements in nearly every major statistic category.

Throughout the game against the Seminoles, South Carolina was challenged. Coach Staley spoke to this when she said, “We won despite turning the ball over. We won despite their runs.”

All-American A'ja Wilson also was hampered by foul trouble, yet still found a way to win by sticking to their game plan.

“We exploited putting the ball on the floor and challenging hem to stop on one-on-one,” Staley said.

“That was the game plan, to attack their feet, and put them back on their heels.”

Kaela Davis was huge for South Carolina as she epitomized the game plan of driving the ball to the bucket. She scored 21 points on 10-15 shooting from the field and went 1-4 from the free throw line.

Since we’ve gone to a smaller lineup, it’s created more scoring opportunities for Kaela, more driving lanes for her to get to the basket and more opportunity for her to pull up, as well,” said Staley on Davis’ performance. “She’s seeing it and she’s hitting those holes like a running back.”

Somewhat, same way, this South Carolina team finds themselves back in the Final Four. Despite losing a player averaging a double-double, having the scare of potentially losing another key player, facing a Cinderella, and having their All-American struggle, this team has found itself.

And as South Carolina found themselves one win away from their heels.”

Are we going to the Final Four? But did this really happen?” coach Staley said in response to the Gamecocks season-defining win over none other than Coach K’s Blue Devils in this year’s NCAA Tournament. Frank Martin was once again correct with his predictions.

Thursday, March 30, 2017

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Previewing the Gamecocks’ first Final Four appearance, Martin was reminded that the state of South Carolina currently possesses the reigning national champions on the diamond and on the gridiron. Of course South Carolina’s men’s and women’s basketball teams both cut down the nets this week in their regional championships.

“Life is about people,” Martin said. “When you put special people in a room you get them to co-exist and respect each other, and live for one another, then — and only then — do you have special things come your way. That’s what this state is about.”

“You think of all the controversy — I said this a couple of years ago — our state handled controversy around here a heck of a lot better than the rest of the country has. It’s because of people,” Martin said. “It’s because of people.”

From the time Martin arrived in Columbia until the start of his first winning season with the Gamecocks, the state was rocked by the flag controversy, the Emanuel AME church shooting and the devastating flash floods of October 2015. “They love their state,” Martin said of South Carolinians. “That’s why what’s happened might be a surprise to a lot — it’s not a surprise to me. After five years here I’ve learned the values and the passion of the people of South Carolina. I’m not surprised that you’ve had leadership at different universities put people in place, and they’re so excited for representing what this state is about, that this kind of success has taken place.”

I had another conversation with my dad as we left behind the train of protesters, bypassed CLA and headed back to our hotel. He encouraged me to go out and join the student newspaper, maybe cover sports again as I had done in high school. I was lukewarm on the proposal. I had decided to enroll in the Darla Moore business school instead of going the journalism route, and I had no expectations that they would let a freshman with minimal experience cover baseball or football in the foreseeable future.

My dad reminded me about basketball again. I stepped into the role of sports editor less than five months later, covering my first men’s basketball game at CLA around the same time. I had known nothing but a winning program since my arrival on campus. The Gamecocks have reached the 25-win mark in each of the last two seasons, but even earlier this month when I was covering the SEC Tournament in Nashville, I never expected to be preparing to travel to the Final Four.

For that matter, when covering South Carolina in Greenville for the first two rounds of the tournament, a Final Four trip still seemed out the realm of likelihood. That in itself was a small miracle considering that the state of South Carolina was barred from hosting major NCAA tournament events until this year because of the flag that once flew over the Statehouse.

As Martin pointed out, it takes a lot of people to change a culture and to foster a winning environment. As I pack for Phoenix, however, I have to express gratitude to one particular individual for the opportunity.

He’s not “The Screamer” anymore. Even my mom knows his name, albeit mostly because of his suits. The national media’s portrayal of Martin has changed too; he’s suddenly passionate now and not a lunatic. I give all the credit in the world to the athletic department and to seniors like Sindarius Thornwell, Duane Notice and Justin McKie. A lot of people were behind the program’s rapid ascent. But there was really one leader.

DRINKING ISN'T CONSENT. Consent is only a clear and uncoerced “Yes.”

sc.edu/stopsexualassault
As college basketball fans nationwide have learned in the last few weeks, there’s much more to Frank Martin than the tenacious, borderline terrifying demeanor he shows on the basketball court. He came from nothing, but accepted no handouts as he earned his spot on the game’s biggest stage.

Martin’s story is one South Carolina fans have surely come to love, and it’s one Kansas State fans were quick to embrace nearly a decade ago. As I’ve learned during the Gamecocks’ improbable run to the Final Four, there is still no shortage of Martin supporters on the campus where he first broke into the head coaching ranks.

I was a freshman at K-State when Martin arrived as a member of Bob Huggins’ staff in 2006. Huggins’ one year gave a dormant program a shot in the arm, but the real transformation took place when Martin took the reins the following season. That year included K-State’s first NCAA tournament appearance since 1998, Martin’s first of four bids with the Wildcats. More importantly, though, it re-established a winning culture among players and fans alike. Sound familiar?

As a sports editor at the student newspaper, I had the privilege of covering the team during Martin’s most successful K-State season in 2009-10, which ended in the Elite Eight. Even when that team didn’t win, it was rarely outworked. It regularly showcased the “junkyard dog” style of play we’ve seen South Carolina exhibit throughout the tournament.

In many regards, Martin’s abrupt departure to Columbia in 2012 – a result of one too many disagreements with the former athletic director – still haunts K-State fans. That wound re-opened last weekend as we watched Martin not only return to the Elite Eight, but also cut down a net. To say “our loss has been your gain” would be a massive understatement.

After South Carolina’s win Sunday against Florida, I likened watching the Gamecocks’ Final Four run to running into an ex-girlfriend from college, only to find out she became a model and won the lottery. From what I’ve heard and read on social media, I think plenty of Wildcat fans would share that sentiment. However, while I can’t speak for everyone, the majority seem legitimately happy to see Martin still coaching into April.

While many K-State fans – myself included – would much rather see Martin in a purple suit than a garnet one Saturday in Phoenix, I know he deserves every bit of success he’s had and will continue to have. Enjoy the ride and enjoy your coach, Gamecock fans. He truly is one of the best in the business.

— Justin Nutter, Kansas State ’10

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Despite adversity, SC returning to Final Four

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