Diversity dialogue addresses 2020 Vision concerns

Former Gamecocks going to NFL Combine

Staff Oscars predictions
"What we are going to do in this country if I have anything to say about it is to say if somebody works 40 hours a week, that person is not going to live in poverty."
— Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Bernie Sanders, at a news conference in Columbia, South Carolina, Wednesday morning, criticized opponent Hillary Clinton’s approach to welfare reform.

“This type of violence has no place in our society, and we express our love and support for everyone involved.”
— The family of Jason Brian Dalton, the Uber driver who has been charged with six counts of murder in Kalamazoo, Michigan, gave this statement after his arrest.
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Former Gamecocks to show skills at combine

Adam Orfinger
@AORFINGER

With the 2016 NFL Scouting Combine comes the chance for many players to make an impact on NFL scouts and coaches in hopes of boosting their draft stock and potential rookie paycheck. South Carolina will have four players in Indianapolis this weekend in wide receiver Pharoh Cooper, tight end Jerell Adams, running back Brandon Wilds and offensive lineman Brandon Shell.

Cooper was the driving force for the Gamecock offense over the past two seasons, amassing 2,420 combined rushing and receiving yards and 20 touchdowns since the start of the 2014 season, not to mention a few trick plays where he had success passing the ball. According to CBS Sports, Cooper is the eighth-ranked wide receiver in this year’s draft class, and he is projected as a second-round pick. With a strong combine, the former all-purpose Gamecock could launch himself into fringe first-round territory.

Adams could be the most intriguing of the South Carolina players taking part in workouts this weekend. The 6-foot-5 tight end is ranked sixth for his position in what most consider to be a fairly weak class. Like other successful tight ends Jimmy Graham and Antonio Gates, Adams is a former basketball player, and his background is reflected in his athleticism after the catch. Considering he caught just 66 passes during his four years in garnet and black, Adams certainly has something to prove in Lucas Oil Stadium this weekend, but those who followed his collegiate career have seen his flashes of brilliance before.

CBS Sports’ latest rankings list Wilds as the 27th best running back prospect in April’s draft, which has him just outside the group of players who are projected to be drafted. Having battled multiple injuries during his time in Columbia, Wilds never had above-average statistics, failing to surpass 600 rushing touchdowns in any single season. Wilds does not have elite speed or athleticism, but he is a consistently average back. Don’t expect him to do anything spectacular at the combine, but a solid, consistent performance will be the first step to hearing Wilds’ name called at the draft.

Regarding Shell, the 6-foot-6, 325-pound tackle certainly has the size to play in the NFL, but scouts aren’t exactly blown away by his athleticism. They have particular concerns about his speed and footwork, which is likely why he is projected as a seventh-round pick by CBS Sports. Teams will be willing to give Shell an opportunity due to his size and experience as a four-year starter, but he will need to prove he has above-average strength and at least average athleticism this weekend if he is going to improve his draft stock.

Shell and Wilds will be the first players to take the field in Indianapolis on Friday when running backs and offensive linemen take part in on-field workouts. Cooper and Adams will workout on Saturday and catch passes from quarterback prospects.

Adam Orfinger will be covering the NFL Combine from Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis this weekend. For live updates and analysis, follow him on Twitter @AOrfinger.
Michael Parks’ campaign violations:

1. Section 4-3-20
   Feb. 17 Students in Columbia and Patterson halls received flyers that read “Vote for Parks” under their doors. Similar campaign materials were posted in the elevators and on bulletin boards.

2. Section 4-4-10
   Feb. 17 Members of Parks’ campaign were seen at the Darla Moore School of Business and on the Pickens Street Bridge attempting to influence voters and encouraging students to vote at their unofficial voting stations.

3. Section 4-3-40
   Feb. 17 Students observed posters that read “Vote for Parks” on the premises of 650 Lincoln.

Number of violations filed

1
1
3

Hearing: Thursday, 8 p.m., Leadership and Service Center

tacos
- bangkok shrimp
- fish
- jerk chicken
- korean beef bulgogi
- lamb gyro
- mushroom & potato
- banh mi tofu
- mole roasted duck
- steak and cheese
- thai peanut chicken
- bbq carnitas
- spicy buffalo chicken
- crispy pork belly
- black bean & cheese
- crispy chicken BLT

sides
- kimchi
- cowboy pinto beans
- chipotle cheese grits
- black beans

beverages
- seasonal drafts
- sangria
- cheerwine bottles
- (some items seasonal, subject to availability)

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South Carolina came hitting out of the gates to take down Winthrop to the tune of a 16-4 victory.

The offense exploded in the first, where the Gamecocks scored six runs, including a three-run home run by freshman T.J. Hopkins.

South Carolina capitalized on Winthrop defense in the second to score two runs. Senior Marcus Mooney was hit by a pitch then advanced to second on a balk, leading him to score on an Alex Destino RBI single. The Gamecocks then used their running game to put pressure on Winthrop. Jonah Bride scored on a double steal, where he stole home and Destino stole second base.

The sixth and seventh innings were two more big ones for the Gamecocks. They scored a total of eight runs, which brought the score to 16-1 after the seventh.

The Eagles scored two in the ninth, but it was too late, as the Gamecocks had long since sealed the win.

Canaan Cropper got the starter, working three and two-thirds innings in his first start of the season. He gave up three hits and one run with one strikeout to allow the Gamecocks to extend their lead.

Eight of the Gamecocks starting lineup recorded a run in the win. No. 15 South Carolina will host Penn State this weekend and is looking to stay undefeated.

Claudia Chakamian
@TDG_SPORTS

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For college students, “hope and change” has been a part of the lexicon for as long as we’ve been following politics. It may be easy to take for granted just how far we’ve come under President Obama’s leadership.

We’ve seen hope turn into reality. The worst economic downturn since the Great Depression has turned into an unprecedented 71 straight months of job growth. Healthcare, once out of reach for many, is now accessible for millions of Americans. Marriage equality is now the law of the land, thanks in part to a judicial system filled with progressive appointees.

A disastrous “go-it-alone” foreign policy has been replaced with a renewed emphasis on diplomacy and cooperation.

These were some of the stakes in 2008 when voters backed “hope and change.” Eight years later, the election holds a different stake: Progress.

The challenge this time is not to bring revolution to the White House; the challenge is to build on the progress of President Obama’s time in office.

For those who want to keep America moving forward, it’s clear: Hillary Clinton is the best choice to be the next president of the United States.

Clinton’s character and experience make her the most qualified candidate for the presidency. She understands today’s political climate and how to deal with the Republicans in Congress. As first lady and as senator she scored victories, both by working with and fighting against those across the aisle.

Her record as Secretary of State was remarkably successful, with a legacy of promoting human rights — particularly LGBT rights and women’s rights — alongside strengthening America’s security and global partnerships.

In any role she’s been in, from her work as a young civil rights lawyer to her service in government, Hillary has made a positive impact in the lives of others.

No one is better prepared to build on the progress made under President Obama. That’s apparent on issue after issue.

College is more affordable thanks to increased Pell Grant awards, tax credits for families and student loan reforms enacted under President Obama. Hillary’s New College Compact will build on that progress to achieve debt-free college.

Her promise that “costs won’t be a barrier, debt won’t hold you back” is backed by a detailed plan to institute sweeping reforms of the higher education system. Her plan will make it possible for students to finish college without borrowing and will lessen the burden of debt for those who have or will have loans.

Hillary is the only candidate running for president with a comprehensive plan to make college affordable to all.

Healthcare coverage is a reality for millions of Americans as a result of the Affordable Care Act. Obamacare is working — a record high of nearly 90 percent of Americans are now covered. Hillary will build on that progress by leading the push to expand healthcare access to those still without coverage. That doesn’t mean repealing the law, as Republicans want. And that doesn’t mean an unfeasible (politically and practically) proposal for the government to take over what amounts to 17 percent of the American economy. Progress here means adding to the law already on the books.

The Dodd-Frank Act was a huge step forward for regulating the financial system. Hillary will build on that progress to further rein in Wall Street’s excesses. Look past campaign rhetoric, and one will find Clinton has the most comprehensive Wall Street plan of any candidate running for president because she has details where others merely have slogans. Her plan tackles the risks, not just in the big banks (which Dodd-Frank already gives the government the power to break up) but also in the “shadow banking system,” which was a major culprit in sparking the Great Recession. Her plan holds individuals and corporations accountable when they break the law.

In the midst of the primaries, we have to remember what’s at stake. Almost every single Republican running for president is dead set against every progressive policy the Democratic Party is committed to advancing: Marriage equality. Criminal justice reform. Gender pay equity. Gun violence prevention. Campaign finance reform. Paid leave. Clean energy. Reproductive rights. Immigration reform.

And if one of them ends up in the White House, they will finally be able to undo every law and executive order passed under the Obama administration.

The last seven years have given Democrats a long list of accomplishments. We should be proud of President Obama’s record, and we should rally behind a candidate who will unapologetically defend his legacy and fight to build on it.

When I step into the voting booth — on Feb. 27 and on Nov. 8 — I will vote for progress.

I will vote for Hillary Clinton.

—Nick Sottile, fourth-year political science and history student

Hillary Clinton

Birthdate: Oct. 26, 1947
Home state: New York
National polling: 49.0%
(Huffington Post)
South Carolina polling: 58.3%
(Huffington Post)

Chance of winning nomination: 90%
(Predictwise)
Secretary of State (2009-2013)
U.S. Senator (2001-2009)
First Lady (1993-2001)
Won a Grammy (1997)
Administrators, faculty and students addressed the concerns of underrepresented portions of the student body Wednesday evening at the President’s Inclusion Forum.

Focusing on various issues that had been brought up to administrators, speakers discussed what was being done to address those issues. Structured as a moderated dialogue, the forum gave students the opportunity to air their personal experiences and concerns in a respectful environment.

Communication between students and faculty is vital to instigate policy changes. Student Body President Jonathan Kaufman said that he hopes for “a lot of insight and perspective” in the discussion and that students “have the opportunity to share what they think.” Student Government’s presence at the forum was important to him.

“We generally advise administration for a variety of purposes for students and advocate on behalf of the students, so we’re here to learn as much as anybody is,” Kaufman said.

The forum was put together so the president and other administrators could hear from students, especially those who are underrepresented. It responded to the 2020 Vision demands and their letter to Pastides from the protest in November. The letter addressed portions of the demands for 2020 Vision and made the visionaries’ purpose known.

“We have yet again taken it upon ourselves to enact change at our university,” the letter says. The visionaries hope that some of these changes would include mandatory diversity training for faculty and staff and an expansion of the budget for Office of Multicultural Student Affairs.

These concerns prompted the administration to create a forum where students could pose questions and hear directly from the offices in charge of those concerns.
“We want to present you this evening with an update of what we have done,” Pastides said in his opening statement. “I can tell you right off the bat that you will probably be pleased with some of the progress and not pleased maybe with all of the progress that yet needs to be made.”

The forum opened multiple doors to policy changes being enacted. Second-year political science student Megan Taylor was with 2020 Vision when they protested and thinks the forum was successful.

“Oh, obviously everyone showed that there’s a lot of passion for these issues; everyone was willing to listen to the responses and to the questions,” Taylor said.

The room contained a broad spectrum of the student body, which allowed for a broad spectrum of concerns to be addressed. They emphasized the history of the Horseshoe and the plans to change the signs in order to highlight that history. Students also emphasized the importance of what student diversity could gain from the changes. The forum also discussed gender neutral accommodations, disability accessibility concerns and mental health options available to students.

“I’d like to see a lot of transparency,” Taylor said, “and a lot of clear plans and paths ... so that we can all sort of be aware of how this work is being done and that it’s being done in a responsible manner.”

She emphasized how these things would give students more confidence in what is happening among the administration.

Expressing his own core values, Pastides said, “Tolerance is not what this university wants. (It wants) inclusiveness.”

The forum addressed concerns already being handled by the administration and opened many new ones up for discussion. With plans to host more forums in the future, university officials hope to continue in the process of representing the diversity of the student body.
I’ve closely followed the 2016 election season for over a year. It is of my opinion that only one remaining candidate fulfills all of the experiential, ethical and political requirements of the Oval Office and has the best interests of the American people in mind. This candidate is Sen. Bernie Sanders.

I would first like to address what I believe is the most distinguishing factor in favor of Sanders during this circus of an election season. Sanders, by my observation, is the most decent, honest and acceptable human being still running for President of the United States.

For those who worry that a vote for Sanders in the primaries makes for a Republican White House in 2016, I would point out Sanders’ favorable head-to-head polls against Donald Trump, Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, John Kasich and Ben Carson. Sanders also touts high, and rising, national approval ratings, contrary to his primary opponent.

Above his human decency, honesty and poll performances, Sanders has voted consistently on a number of key issues from gay marriage and abortion to criminal justice reform and addressing economic inequality. Additionally, Sanders has a record of working across party lines, which is more important now than ever. As mayor of Burlington, Vermont, Sanders worked with Republicans on public projects, which were widely successful.

Sanders is the strongest presidential candidate for the millennial generation. His widely debated college tuition plan is solid in principle and possible in application. Beyond his stance on college tuition and loans, Sanders aims to end the costly war on drugs in favor of spending money on education.

Bernie is strong on other important millennial issues, such as combating climate change, addressing high youth unemployment, protecting personal freedoms and addressing the root causes of economic inequality. I could go on about his consistent policy records, but I’ll finally address what makes Sanders the best remaining candidate for President of the United States.

Everything that I do not see in his opponent, I see in Sanders. In Sanders, I see a man who has stood by his convictions for an entire political career. I see a man who fights for his beliefs and was arrested in 1960s Chicago in the name of civil rights. In Sanders, I see a visionary leader who can identify institutions that are not simply broken, but fundamentally flawed and require major re-evaluation — namely education, healthcare, election finance, criminal justice and investment banking.

Sanders is the only remaining candidate who has demonstrated such strong convictions that he is willing to get arrested for his beliefs. I do not believe that there is another single candidate with that sort of true passion and zeal for the best interests of the American people. Sanders represents the nearly forgotten dream of what the United States of America could one day become — a nation in which the interests of all people are adequately and equally represented, without restraint.

Bernie Sanders

Birthdate: Sept. 8, 1941
Home state: Vermont
National polling: 42.1%
(South Carolina polling: 33.1%
(Chance of winning nomination: 10%
(Predictwise)
U.S. Senator (2007-present)
Mayor of Burlington, Vermont (1981-1989)
Recorded a folk album (1987)
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Staff predictions for 88th annual Oscars

Sarah Morse  
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With stars such as Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon and Jennifer Lawrence competing for some of the night’s most coveted awards, the 88th Academy Awards will be an awards show you won’t want to miss. The awards, hosted by Chris Rock, will air live from the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles on Sunday, Feb. 28 at 8:30 p.m. on ABC.

The predictions for some of the night’s biggest awards are as follows:

Best Picture: “Room”

Directed by Lenny Abrahamson, “Room” follows the story of a mother and son who have been held in captivity for seven years. The mother, or “Ma,” is played by Brie Larson and her son is played by Jacob Tremblay. Larson is nominated for best actress for her performance. The film is both tragic and uplifting, with each actor’s performance better than the last. Many have speculated that this award will go to “The Revenant,” as it won the Golden Globe for best drama earlier this month, but Abrahamson’s “Room” is a worthy competitor.

Best Actor in a Supporting Role: Leonardo DiCaprio, “The Revenant”

Call it an educated guess or simply wishful thinking, but after five Academy Award nominations and zero wins, 2016 has to be Leo’s year. Love him or hate him, DiCaprio was truly unbelievable in his role as Hugh Glass in “The Revenant.” After being mauled by a bear and left for dead in the woods of Montana, Glass makes it his mission to hunt down those who betrayed him. DiCaprio utters few words following his attack at the start of the film, which makes his performance so impressive. Without speaking, DiCaprio is able to captivate his audience and get a strong emotional response.

Best Actress in a Leading Role: Saoirse Ronan, “Brooklyn”

Directed by John Crowley, “Brooklyn” follows Ellis Lacey (Saoirse Ronan) on her journey from Ireland to the United States during the 1950s. Ronan’s character struggles with the concepts of death, homesickness and love throughout the film. The Oscar for best actress is well-deserved for Ronan’s performance. Ronan adopts the struggles of her character as if they were her own, making her performance seem more raw and relatable. Ronan, though young, is well-deserving of this recognition from the academy.

Best Actor in a Supporting Role: Christian Bale, “The Big Short”

Hollywood heavyweight Christian Bale was flawless in his supporting role as Michael Burry in “The Big Short.” The film, which follows four friends who used their finance skills to capitalize on the market crash of 2005, features Bale as the blunt and sarcastic Burry. Despite not being the main character, the film seems to belong to Bale as a result of his impeccable performance. Bale last won this award for his role in “The Fighter” in 2011. If you haven’t seen “The Big Short” yet, you should definitely set some time aside to do so.

Best Actress in a Supporting Role: Kate Winslet “Steve Jobs”

In the film “Steve Jobs,” actress Kate Winslet proves once again her acting prowess in the role of Joanna Hoffman, one of the original marketing executives at Apple. “Steve Jobs” as a collective work would not have been as captivating without Kate Winslet’s portrayal of the tough, rational and unforgiving Hoffman. With one Oscar and three Golden Globes under her belt, Winslet is widely expected to claim yet another recognition for her believable character representations.

For the complete list of nominees, check out the Academy Awards website, oscar.go.com.
In partnership with Green Quad, Sustainable Carolina hosted the third annual Green Career Fair on Wednesday evening. The Green Career Fair gives students the opportunity to meet and network with companies and organizations that offer internships, volunteer opportunities and careers in the sustainability field.

When organizing the fair, third-year environmental science student Austin Sutherland wanted students of all majors to be able to benefit from the fair as much as a student with a “green” major would.

“The idea was to get a lot of organizations and companies that applied to all majors but with sustainability involved,” Sutherland said. Jobs in the “green field” aren’t easily found for students, and many students might not know where to look. The larger Career Fair offers many opportunities for a variety of majors, but Sutherland noticed that sustainable jobs and opportunities were missing.

“Students have had trouble finding green jobs and volunteer opportunities,” he said. “Students have requested for us to do a Green Career Fair because it’s often overlooked.”

Dressed in their business attire, students moved from booth to booth learning about the different opportunities that were available to them. With the fair’s focus on sustainability, students were able to talk one-on-one with representatives in a smaller setting than they would at the regular Career Fair.

Students learned about internships such as the Sustainable Midlands’ educational outreach internship; the social media and marketing internship; and the membership and volunteer coordination internship. Sustainable Midlands representative Katie Welborn said that her organization has opportunities for all majors.

“Political science majors can get involved with Grass Roots Advocacy, and communication majors can intern with social media marketing and event management, and any student can volunteer with Food Alliance and farm tours,” Welborn said.

The Green Career Fair also gave students the opportunity to learn about sustainability and how they can get involved. Second-year advertising student Ivy McCleary attended the fair because she wanted to broaden her horizons and learn more about sustainability.

“I’m looking for different volunteering opportunities that I could participate in and even get my sorority (Alpha Gamma Delta) to do,” McCleary said. “The Green Career Fair offered students a pathway to jobs and internships in a field that is often underrepresented. It is one of many events and programs that Sustainable Carolina offers students throughout the year. Sutherland hopes that students not only left the fair with internship and job opportunities, but also with a better understanding of Sustainable Carolina as a whole.
Guest performers captivate audience

Olivia Reszczynski
@TDG_ARTS

Guest violinist Vadim Gluzman performed with the USC Symphony Orchestra’s All-Beethoven Concert on Tuesday at the Koger Center for the Arts.

Donald Portnoy, a world-renowned musician, conducted the symphony as it played three main pieces. The first, “The Creatures of Prometheus” Overture ebbs and flows between soft, sweet sounds and thunderous, regal dimensions. The second piece, Symphony No. 7 in A Major, Op. 92, is comprised of four movements, which were a mixture of interwoven rhythms and echoing melodies full of riveting and pompous reverberations.

After a brief intermission, the orchestra played the final piece, Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 61, comprised of three movements. In this piece, the USC Symphony Orchestra highlighted the incredible musical abilities of Gluzman, who plays regularly with orchestras such as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra and San Francisco Symphony. Gluzman plays music as if it’s a language and not simply notes on a page, bringing Beethoven to life for listeners.

“The guest artist, Vadim Gluzman, was technically and musically precise to the highest degree,” Hannah Knott, a cellist in the USC Symphony Orchestra, said. “His sound brought tears to our eyes and inspired us to work even harder.”

Gluzman was also a favorite among the concert attendees as his vivacious manner captured the audience’s ears and hearts. First-year undecided student Athena Marousis said, “My favorite part was the featured violinist because he played for over half an hour completely from memory, standing up.”

Zane Nayfeh, first-year physics student, was stunned. “It is unbelievably beautiful.”

Performing such high-level pieces at a professional level required many hours of practice. Utmost dedication was required from all members of the orchestra, and their efforts were proudly on display throughout all the movements of the concert.

“We rehearse about five hours a week, meeting on Mondays and Wednesdays in the afternoons,” Knott said.

For that reason alone, it is worth seeing the incredible effort that these students put into playing their instruments. “(The) people that are performing spend many years practicing to get to the point they are now,” Marousis said. “So if we could just take out an hour of our time to appreciate years of hard work, I don’t think that’s too much to ask for.”

The symphony members seemed just as thrilled to be there as concertgoers, relaying the passion they have for making music to those present. “I want people to know that classical music is alive and well,” Knott said. “We all love being able to play for the city of Columbia and share our hard work with you all.”

The All-Beethoven concert was alive, well and breathtaking — definitely more than worthy of a few hours on a Tuesday night.
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1 Takes out in an arcade, as bad guys
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11 Rank above cpl.
14 Spread unit
15 Really enjoys
16 Quattro meno uno
17 Chinese noodle dish
20 Clothes line
21 Antiquing agent
22 “A Farewell to ___”
23 1995 Shania Twain album
27 Lincoln Town Cars, e.g.
30 Highest point
31 “Jeopardy!” name
32 Hanging around
37 Org. for Hawks but not Eagles
38 Whiskas alternative ... or, literally, what’s hidden in 17-, 23-, 47- and 57-Across
40 Pivotal
41 Commonly yellow blooms
43 Clothes line
44 Not quite closed
45 WWII fleet
47 Greeter of new homeowners
52 Missouri River tribe
53 “Dies ___”
54 Deluge refuge
57 Will Schuester portrayed on “Glee”
62 Was tricked by a worm?
63 Pull into, as a motel
64 Late-night rival of Jimmy and Jimmy
65 Pavement warning
66 “___ here”: “Poltergeist”
67 Expel with force

DOWN
1 “The Hangover” actor Galifianakis
2 Workout consequence
7 3 Schoolmarmish
4 “Hold on a ___!”
5 Extended attacks
6 Good ___; fully restored
7 Start to manage?
8 The Wildcats of the America East Conf.
9 1940s mil. zone
10 Cattle call
11 Back at sea
12 Fairy tale brother
13 High-strung
14 Applause
15 “Hermelinator”
16 Quattro meno uno
17 Chinese noodle dish
20 Clothes line
21 Antiquing agent
22 “A Farewell to ___”
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66 “___ here”: “Poltergeist”
67 Expel with force

38 Magic amulet
39 Mild cheese
40 Gem surface
43 George W., to George
45 Loree’s “Casablanca” role
46 Certain Afrikaner
47 Areas for development
48 Cybercommerce
49 Numbers game
50 Not macho at all
51 Like a loud crowd
54 “By yesterday!” letters
55 Gad about
56 Had down cold
58 FDR successor
59 Biblical verb suffix
60 Misfortune
61 They may be checked at the door

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