Three years ago, when Rebecca Phillips took the helm of the Mighty Sound of the Southeast, the band's sound wasn’t all that mighty.

“It wasn’t as disciplined a band, and that showed in our performance,” said Chase Harding, now one of the band's drum majors and a fourth-year music student. “We got shown up by Furman at a home game.”

The band had 248 members and rotated a few different halftime performances throughout the season. It left many students and fans unimpressed and “paled in comparison with the best bands in the SEC,” according to Scott Weiss, director of bands.

After the 2010 football season, Weiss decided the marching band needed a change in leadership and hired Phillips, who had already been at USC for four years as associate director of bands. In her new role, Phillips saw an opportunity.

“We've always had great students here... They were just looking for some guidance and some leadership so we could have a band the university could take pride in,” Phillips said.

Three years later, the university found that pride. Gamecock fans cheer along with the band during pre-game performances and stay in their seats to watch elaborate halftime shows set to recognizable song medleys. The band itself has grown by nearly 100 members, due largely to improved retention, Phillips said. The band's culture has shifted from "unprofessional" to one of high expectations and self-motivation, according to Harding.

Now, after three years of progress, Phillips will leave the Mighty Sound of the Southeast and USC to become director of bands at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo. Jayme Taylor, assistant director of bands, will serve in her place while USC conducts a nationwide search for her replacement, who should be named before the 2015 football season.

Phillips will step away from marching band in her new role. She will oversee all of Colorado State's bands, leading the university's most elite ensembles and teaching undergraduate and graduate

Coke brings smiles, free swag

Before the South Carolina women’s basketball team embarks on their trip to Seattle for the first round of the NCAA tournament, Cocky, the Gamecock cheerleaders and the band will send them off from the entrance of the Carolina Coliseum.

The team is scheduled to leave from the Elephant Room of the Carolina Coliseum on Park Street at 1 p.m. today.

South Carolina will take on California State Northridge on Sunday in the first round of the Stanford Regional.

— Compiled by David Roberts, Assistant Sports Editor

Fans to send off women’s team

The public is encouraged to send off the women’s team at 5 p.m. today.

Carleton Thompson loves his reputation

Sarah Thomas

If you've ever been to a basketball, baseball or volleyball game, you've probably seen a man with long hair and a beard, running around and getting the student section pumped up. Around USC, he is known as Gamecock Jesus or Baseline Jesus.

His real name is Carlton Thompson, and he is crazy about Gamecock athletics. Thompson said he is really passionate about getting the crowd excited at sporting events and believes that students have the ability to have a positive effect on the outcomes of games.

“The fans make a difference,” he said. “I like to get the fans involved in the game because they can help them actually win. They always feed off the crowd, the fans, and especially the student section.”

He said that’s what motivates him to keep coming back.

“Believe that you can come to the games and create a winning environment and a home court advantage and actually help the teams win,” he said. “I’ve seen it

Gamecocks’ biggest believer

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CREED WEEK KICKS OFF SUNDAY

Themed activities, seminars planned for each day of the week

Throughout next week, USC students and faculty will have the opportunity to learn more about the code of conduct designed to establish and define integrity at USC.

**Creed and Diversity Week,** sponsored by the Carolina Judicial Council, Student Government, the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs and Residence Hall Association, is made up of different events that they hope will encourage students to learn to love those guidelines.

Phillips is the director of the Carolina Creed, said Becca Maitetta, who chairs the Carolina Judicial Council’s public relations committee. “Every day is celebrating a different tenet of the creed.”

The week will begin Sunday with the Tunnel of Awareness, an annual exhibit that informs students of social justice issues, and the Office of Substance Abuse Prevention and Education’s Good Choice Challenge.

Each of the following days is themed, with Monday designated as “leadership day.” A kick-off carnival will be held on Greene Street from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. On Tuesday, or “acceptance day,” BGLSA and Carolina Productions will host RedEye, an annual drag show, in the Russell House Ballroom.

On Wednesday, or “compassion day,” is when the Creed Caravan and Hero Awards banquet will be held.

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The values that are instilled in students by the creed help us make a better community at Carolina,” Maitetta said.

A dialogue in the Preston seminar room will take place 4 to 5 p.m. on “Integrity Thursday,” and CreedX Talks on “Respect Friday” to encourage students to talk about the tenets of the creed. With a format like the famous TED conference, CreedX will be attended by Mayor Steve Benjamin and First Lady Patricia Moore-Pastides.

Other events will take place until March 31, when Carolina Creed and Diversity Week will officially end.

“Integrity is an important that students recognize what the creed is and recognize that it is not some sort of abstract idea but something that helps you live life like a good person,” Maitetta said.

**New Columbia police chief to be announced**

City Manager Torey Wilson is expected to name William “Skip” Holbrook the new chief of the Columbia Police Department, The State reported.

Holbrook has been the chief of the Huntington, W.Va., Police Department since 2007. His nomination was made public Thursday by the mayor, who said that he had announced his appointment two weeks earlier but had not acknowledged the move until now, according to The State.

Holbrook was one of five finalists for the position who were chosen from a pool of 10 applicants. He was interviewed for three days and had met with City Council members and police officers.

Holbrook would be the ninth person to lead the Columbia Police Department in seven years. Since Randy Scott’s resignation in April 2013, interim and acting chiefs have managed the department.

—Sarah Martin, Assistant News Editor

**Emma’s Law approved by House subcommittee**

A bill that aims to reduce DUI deaths and crashes was approved by an state House subcommittee on Thursday, The State reported.

The bill, known as Emma’s Law, would require people convicted of drunken driving to install an “ignition interlock” after their first offense. The devices prevent drivers from using a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

State Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Richland, a supporter of the bill, said its passage through the Senate subcommittee was the bill’s “biggest obstacle.” Now, after having been held in the subcommittee for a year without a hearing, Emma’s Law will head to the Senate floor.

The hearing on Thursday saw an overflow of doctors, DUS victims, public safety officials and activists who all support the passage of Emma’s Law.

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MAKEYOURMARK

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Apply to lead the University’s award-winning quarterly magazine, Garnet & Black, for the 2014-15 academic year.

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Apply to lead the University’s award-winning daily student newspaper, The Daily Gamecock, during the Summer 2014 and/or Fall 2014 terms.

Station Manager

Academic Year 2014-15

Apply to lead the University’s student-run radio station, WUSC-FM, for the 2014-15 academic year.

Applications due March 28 at 4:00 p.m. in RH 112

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Online at: www.sa.sc.edu/studentmedia www.dailygamecock.com

leader

done hundreds of times. The main thing is you've to believe that you can do it.”

Thompson's love for the Gamecocks began at age 15 when he went to opening night for the 1968 basketball season at the Carolina Coliseum. Frank McGuire was the coach, and after his brother camped out for two days to get tickets, Thompson had the chance to sit in the second row. Ever since then, he's been a big fan of the Gamecocks.

Thompson went on to attend USC and graduate in the class of 1982 with a degree in nursing.

Gamecock Jesus — a reputation Thompson loves — has been around for more than 30 years and has seen the Gamecocks through both exciting and sad times.

And now, he fondly remembers victories over big opponents such as Kentucky and Tennessee.

His favorite moment happened this season when the women’s basketball team won the SEC championship, which was the women’s basketball team’s first championship.

“We really need to get behind the women’s basketball team because they really have a chance to go all the way this year,” Thompson said.

Thompson also predicts big things for the volleyball team, which he believes has the potential to become great on the heels of excellent recruitment. “I really love volleyball, and I predict that within the next couple of years, we’re going to have one of the best volleyball teams in the country,” he said.

Thompson travels to a lot of away games as well, and he always makes the trip to Clemson. He traveled as far as Omaha, Neb., and San Francisco to see South Carolina teams play.

Thompson said he has a lot of faith in the coaching and athletics staffs. “We’ve probably got the best coaches in the whole country right here at Carolina,” he said. “We’re led by the best athletic director, Ray Tanner. He believes, and everybody believes in him. Dawn Staley is the best and most decorated basketball player and coach in America.”

Ladies, This Is Your Chance!

Are you a South Carolina Gamecocks fan but have trouble finding the styles and sizes of women’s apparel you’d like to buy?

Here’s your chance to make a difference by taking a few minutes to participate in an online survey on women’s college apparel.

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Survey ends March 25, 2014
The state House is up in arms over gay-themed books.

Our stance: Preserving the value of higher education.

The purpose of higher education can be distilled into two questions: Why should we support a more complete knowledge of the world and its principles that surround us, and reinforcing the type of critical thinking that separates the followers and leaders of a society?

In spite of this, state House members recently receded $70,000 in funding from two public schools, College of Charleston and USC. Update — for assigning gay-themed books.

This is a shocking example of the kind of poor leadership that has weakened our societal progress.

The House’s decision is not about money, it’s about sending a message.

College is a place where students deem inappropriate has a chilling effect that could swamp professors and the next generation of teaching their coursework. We don’t need future journalists or second-guesses their decisions. We need future journalists teaching their students to challenge their students.

But if we’re going to punish colleges for teaching material that some consider controversial, think of all the programs and classes that would need to be cut, religious studies, political science, economics, women’s studies, gender studies, among others. To strip this state’s highest education of its freedom to teach students material that some might disagree with is to strip it of the hallmarks of education and enslaves progress and disrupts critical thinking disciplines.

Both providing principles and theories that clash with legislators’ personal beliefs and the new reality of public funding, why bother going to college at all? Challenging the status quo is how most breakthroughs are made.

As a writer professor who wants to free press must celebrate, relish and utilize the tenets of the First Amendment, which can be applied to any age group: Don’t hit, clean up your mess, and utilize the tenets of the First Amendment.

In the split second it took to classify and label many of these letters, I’ve wondered why we’re so compelled to make some comparisons. The Pussy Riot protests in Russia. Now, Newseum is an enormous banner that reads, “NEWSEUM CELEBRATES FREEDOM.” In 2014, natural human rights are being eliminated.

Not only are millions of people in the U.S. living in fear and oppression each day, but the right of their countries to freedom affect testimonies to such disasters is compromised.

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Where’s the beef? Almost anywhere, really. The real question is: Where can you go in South Carolina to find meatless eats? One of the answers is a small but growing number of restaurants across the state serving 100 percent vegan cuisine.

Sharon Wright hasn’t eaten meat in 23 years. She gave it up “overnight,” she said, after watching her grandfather suffer from colon cancer. She adopted a macrobiotic diet, which relies on grains as the dietary staple and avoids most animal products. In the past 12 years, she’s transitioned to a completely meat-free, dairy-free, sugar-free, nearly completely raw style of eating.

She’s never once considered going back to eating meat and processed foods. “That was never an option. I’m all or nothing,” Wright said. “The energy level went out the roof. I lost about 30 pounds. It was just incredible how good I felt. I ran marathons. I had all this energy.”

Three years ago, she and two business partners opened the Good Life Café in West Columbia, serving raw vegan food and cold-pressed juices. And celebrating the success of their vegan venture, the trio opened a second location in downtown Columbia earlier this month.

There are at least seven restaurants in South Carolina serving strictly vegan food — that is, food completely free of animal products — and all have opened within the past eight years, including at least four in the past two years.

From LifeIt Café in Greenville to Urban Vegan Café in Hilton Head, which both opened in 2013, the vegan dining trend is spreading from one corner of the state to the other.

Caroline Brennan and her husband opened The Sprout organic café and juice bar in Mount Pleasant about seven years ago. As the only all-vegan restaurant in the Charleston area, Brennan said, The Good Life Café is open Monday through Sunday for lunch and dinner, featuring menu items like spring rolls and full eggplant bacon wraps. She adopted a macrobiotic diet, which relies on grains as the dietary staple and avoids most animal products. In the past 12 years, she’s transitioned to a completely meat-free, dairy-free, sugar-free, nearly completely raw style of eating. She’s never once considered going back to eating meat and processed foods. “That was never an option. I’m all or nothing,” Wright said. “The energy level went out the roof. I lost about 30 pounds. It was just incredible how good I felt. I ran marathons. I had all this energy.”

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principal of a prep school would not be such a broad character. The only explanation for her behavior appears to be that she does not want to draw attention to the fact that two of the mothers are African-American and one is a Latina. She has no justification for treading so carefully around the mothers. It makes her appear as though she is trying extra hard to not come across as racist or insensitive. It is just one of many scenes in the film in which characters act or talk in unrealistic or didactic ways.

In one scene, Esperanza takes her daughter to a restaurant for her birthday party and meets her husband, who is smoking a cigar. He is constantly undermining her authority and parenting. When she tells him that their daughter was caught smoking after school, he shrugs it off and says that she was just having fun. What parent would say such a thing? His preteen daughter is caught smoking, but she was just having carefree fun.

The men in the film are either cigar-chomping villains who avoid the responsibility of helping take care of their growing children, or they are wonderful specimens of their sex who are perfect partners for the ladies. Perry has a fan base, and this film will not likely change the opinions of his followers. His work is lazy and bland or, at worst, offensive and painfully unfunny.

“The Single Moms Club” is tolerable, thanks in part to the absence of Madea. Be grateful for that at least.

Sprout serves a variety of burritos, tacos, salads, soups, as well as smoothies, juices and coffees. Everything is made in-house, and nothing is cooked by a fryer or oven, Brennan said.

While The Sprout offers some raw food options, Good Life Café is rare in that its locations serve only raw foods. The benefit of not cooking foods is that all of their nutritional values are kept intact, Wright said.

“When you cook food, you destroy the nutrients. You’re killing the enzymes,” she said. “When you eat raw food, you’re getting all those nutrients. All those enzymes go into your body, and you start processing it. Your body utilizes that food and then eliminates it.”

Wright considers her menu “gourmet raw” cuisine. It includes items such as the almond butter bacon sandwich, which features dehydrated eggplant “bacon” and maple syrup, and lasagna made with layers of zucchini noodles, cashew cheese, sundried tomato-sauce and pinto beans. Wright said the believers people will continue to become more interested in taking charge of their own health and gravitate toward the vegan lifestyle.

“To me, it’s all about prevention,” she said, referring to diseases that could be avoided with a healthy lifestyle. “You can control cancer. You can control diabetes. You can control heart disease. You can control weight. I don’t want to have those issues. I do what I do for prevention.”

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PHONE STARTS @ $10.25 PER HOUR.

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Coach Chad Holbrook said the South Carolina pitching staff will have its hands full against Kentucky. The Gamecocks own the lowest ERA in the country with a 3.16 mark.

25 in the Baseball America poll. They had been No. Wildcats’ last series, they lost two out of three to an runs scored with 1 94, and they sit at eighth place in collegiate baseball. The Wildcats lead the nation in both hits and home runs.

Chad Holbrook said. “Kentucky’s been pretty darn good, and they’re good again.”

Curtis Frye knew the importance of international athletes, head coach some other aspects. He was unwilling to commit to life in America post-graduation.

Kanervo and Asselin both recognized that the support they have received from the South Carolina community has made their transition much smoother. Anxious athletes born and raised on foreign soil.

Jackson Fily SNADER MEDIA RELATIONS

Collegiate track in the United States gives host to a number of international students looking for alternative culture, and a higher level of athletic competition. The University of South Carolina is no different, boasting an extensive history of successful student athletes born and raised on foreign soil. Jussi Kanervo of Finland and Alexandre Asselin of France, both freshmen, are the latest to make the transition to the United States by way of the Gamecocks.

Aside from the contrast in language and culture, the relationship between athletes and a collegiate education in the United States differs greatly from that seen in their own European countries. “In Europe it is not possible to get a degree and participate in sports,” Kanervo said. “In [Europe] People who do track do not go to school.”

This unique combination of education and athletics provided by the American education system can be overwhelming for the average student, and even more so for international athletes, head coach Curtis Frye knew the importance of making them feel comfortable with the university.

Asselin spoke of the stereotype American collegiate athlete face when discussed in other countries. He was discouraged by high school coaches to come to America, telling him that he would not progress, and that “College [in the United States] destroys athletes,” and that he would be no different.

“We had to sell them on the fact that they could both do education and athletics,” Frye said. “The American system is very unique, but they have handled it quite well. They are both very bright students!”

Both Kanervo and Asselin knew the challenges they would face adopting a life in a new country. Asselin acknowledged that the level of independence was far greater in the United States than in France, where the majority of his work was done in the classroom.

Kanervo feels he has overcome many of the educational challenges quickly; however, he has been slower to adjust to some other aspects. “Sometimes you get really frustrated using the dictionary all the time,” he said. “I always had a dream to come to America, and to eventually earn their degrees. Kanervo noted that his immediate acceptance in the American classroom and social environment according to their coach, Kanervo and Asselin were left with only track to overcome successfully.

Sophomore Max Schrock was sidelined with an ankle injury last weekend, but didn’t seem to impact him when he came in to hit a game-tying pinch-hit home run game two of a doubleheader. While Holbrook is still unsure about if Schrock will play in the field this weekend, he says the second baseman will at least play designated hitter.

Kentucky’s juggernaut offense is lead primarily by two players, A.J. Reed and Austin Cousino, that Holbrook thinks should be first-team All-Americans. Reed is tied for the most home runs in the nation with nine, and he is in second place for RBIs with 31, while Cousino leads the country in slugging percentage. Statistically, however, there is no unit better equipped to challenge the Wildcats’ firepower than the South Carolina pitching staff.

The Gamecocks have the lowest earned run average in the nation at 1.36, and they lead the country with nine shutouts.

While South Carolina tries to account for the inevitable run production that Kentucky brings to the table, Holbrook said his plan is to trust the offensive lineup he’s been going with all season rather than experiment with new order.

“We’re 18-1. I’m not going to change things too much,” Holbrook said.

On the injury front, the Gamecock training room is still relatively empty, aside from a few nagging ailments. Sophomore Max Schrock was sidelined with an ankle injury last weekend, but it didn’t seem to impact him when he came in to hit a game-tying pinch-