Weekender
Friday, March 20, 2015

Media Madness

Balancing your online selves with your college identity

The women’s NCAA tournament begins
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“I feel that the Lord has placed me here for a short time, and nothing more.”
— Pope Francis, suggesting that he feels his pontificate will be brief

“During the days and weeks ahead, I would like to ask each of you to make an extra effort to reach out to one another. Please lend a listening ear and a generous heart to those who are experiencing sorrow and grief.”
— President Pastides, in light of the death of Charles Terreni, Jr.

“I just got shot ...”
— Arizona shooting victim Isaac Martinez in a Snapchat he took before receiving medical attention for the gunshot wound inflicted after Ryan Giroux allegedly went on a rampage, killing one man and injuring Martinez and four others

“I choose the mints so when I’m chewing out an official, I’ll have fresh breath.”
— USC women’s basketball coach Dawn Staley on her addiction to Wint-O-Green Lifesaver mints
Evident by its 30-2 record and the one-seed it earned for the second consecutive season, the South Carolina women’s basketball team has proven itself to be one of the most talented teams in the country.

The team’s SEC regular-season and conference tournament crowns back that up, too. So do the numerous individual accolades head coach Dawn Staley and her players earned from the SEC.

But more than ever, Staley needs her group to match its on-court talent with mental toughness as the NCAA tournament begins.

The road to the Final Four is a long one, and even though the Gamecocks have set winning a national championship as their ultimate goal, they must take everything one game at a time, Staley says.

That starts with Friday’s tournament opening matchup with 16-seed Savannah State at Colonial Life Arena.

The Tigers, who won the MEAC conference tournament to earn their first ever NCAA tournament bid, will be heavy underdogs against South Carolina. The two teams previously met in December, with the Gamecocks winning a lopsided game, 111-49.

Despite the clear talent differential between South Carolina and its first-round opponent, Staley said it will be important for the Gamecocks to play well and set the tone for the upcoming weekend.

“We want to play our best basketball at this time in the season, because everybody’s going to bring their A-game,” Staley said. “We’re
Although a 16-seed has only beaten a one-seed once in the history of the NCAA women’s basketball tournament, South Carolina sophomore center Alaina Coates said the Gamecocks need to prepare for Savannah State as if it's any other opponent.

“We just make sure that we keep a level head,” Coates said. “We know that we can’t take anybody lightly at this point. We treat them like we treat anybody else.”

The chance to finally play an NCAA tournament game at home is a big deal for South Carolina, as is the opportunity to possibly play in Greensboro, North Carolina should the Gamecocks advance to the Sweet 16.

“I’m very excited,” freshman guard/forward A'ja Wilson said. “I was talking to everybody else like ‘Gah, I hope we get Greensboro, I hope we get Greensboro.’”

Still, to get to Greensboro, the Gamecocks must handle business in Columbia.

While the Gamecocks are the clear favorites against Savannah State, there’s the possibility for South Carolina to face eight-seed Syracuse in the second round.

Like Savannah State, Syracuse has already played against South Carolina this season, losing by just four points back in November.

Having the opportunity to play teams that they’ve already faced is a good thing for the Gamecocks, junior shooting guard Tiffany Mitchell said.

“We’ve seen them before, so I think we’re just going to look at tape, since we’ve previously played them and just go off of that,” Mitchell said.

Savannah State and South Carolina had four common opponents this year and the Tigers defeated Florida, a team South Carolina won by 35 points against in January.

Since losing to South Carolina in December, Savannah State has gone 17-7 and the Tigers haven’t lost since Jan. 31, winning their last 11 games.

Parking Information

Due to the Women’s NCAA Regional Tournament being held at the Colonial Life Arena this weekend, the FS10 (Pearle Lab) parking lot will be closed. No USC parking permit holders will have access to the lot beginning Friday at 7 a.m. and running through the conclusion of the game on Sunday night.

The parking lot, located next to the Facilities Center near the corner of Gadsden and Greene streets, is normally available to those with faculty and staff parking permits.

USC Vehicle Management and Parking Services urges any faculty and staff who normally park in that lot to use the AD3 lot, which is bordered by Blossom, Lincoln, Devine and Gadsden streets.

—Lauren Shirley, News Editor
‘Suspicious death’ identified as first-year student Charles Terreni, Jr.

First-year business student Charles Terreni, Jr. was identified as the person found dead in a Lee Street house Wednesday, according to Richland County Coroner Gary Watts.

An autopsy Thursday morning showed no signs of traumatic injury, according to Watts. Results of the toxicology tests are pending.

Terreni, 18, lived on campus and was a member of USC’s Pi Kappa Alpha chapter. The chapter was placed under administration suspension following Terreni’s death. The fraternity’s international headquarters said in a release Wednesday that the USC chapter ceased operations upon Terreni’s death and is cooperating with Columbia Police and Richland County Coroner investigations.

The university is acting in accordance with the international fraternity, which placed the Xi chapter under administrative suspension Wednesday after first-year business student Charles Terreni, Jr. was found dead in a Lee Street residence.

According to Chief Communications Officer Wes Hickman, USC suspended the chapter “pending the outcome of a review of their activities and the findings of the Columbia Police Department.”


USC President Harris Pastides said in an email Thursday afternoon that he was “deeply concerned by such difficult news and by the tremendous sense of sadness that it brings to our campus.”

The coroner’s office received the call at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday that Terreni was found dead in the Lee Street residence. Neighbors said Wednesday they hadn’t seen or heard anything out of the ordinary the night before.

Columbia Police deemed Terreni’s death “suspicious” Wednesday after they found no sign of foul play at the scene.

“During the days and weeks ahead, I would like to ask each of you to make an extra effort to reach out to one another,” Pastides said in the email. “Please lend a listening ear and a generous heart to those who are experiencing sorrow and grief.”
Weekend Calendar:
March 20 to March 22

FRIDAY
COLUMBIA INFRINGEMENT ARTS FESTIVAL
626 Meeting St., West Columbia
Fri, 6 to 10 p.m., Sat, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sun, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free admission.

The Columbia Infringement Arts Festival is a nonprofit grassroots arts movement that aims to shed light on student and community artists in Columbia. With a percussion recital, swing dancing classes, spoken-word poetry, yoga, hula hoop lessons, ritual seances and a DJ party, there is something for everybody.

GODSPELL
Trustus Theatre, 520 Lady St.
Fri, 8 p.m. $20-27

A small cast of people help Jesus Christ teach parables using a variety of games, storytelling techniques and a reasonable amount of comedy. The story of Jesus’ life traipses across the stage, accompanied by songs ranging from pop to vaudeville. The music brings Jesus’ messages of kindness, tolerance and love vibrantly to life. “Godspell” runs through April 11.

SATURDAY
SODA CITY SUDS AND SPUDS MARKET
1500 block of Main Street
Sat, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free admission.

Nicknamed after “Cola,” the abbreviation for Columbia, Soda City Market will begin Soda City Suds Week with Suds and Spuds. Along with its usual vendors, the market will feature potato-based treats and South Carolina craft beer. Happiness Bomb Boiled PNUTS, will also put on a free puppet show beginning at 11:20 a.m.

CONTRACOLA, THE COLUMBIA CONTRA DANCE
Heyward Street United Methodist Church, 2501 Heyward St.
Sat, 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. $5 - $8

A live band will play music from Old-time, Celtic and French-Canadian, along with some more contemporary swing styles. No partner necessary.

SUNDAY
ALL THINGS GREEN
Spring Valley Country Club, 300 Spring Valley Road
Sun, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. $30

Columbia Baroque presents All Things Green, featuring Celtic harpist Leah Trent. There will be hors d’oeuvres, door prizes and lively Celtic music. The gala is a fundraising attempt to fund Columbia Baroque’s mainstage performances for the rest of their season.

STEVE WANNAMAKER
Comedy House, 2768 Decker Blvd.
Sun, 7 p.m.

Former USC basketball standout Steve Wannamaker performs stand-up comedy, including singing and an Elvis impersonation. Before turning to comedy, he continued with his sports career as an analyst and writer for local sports radio. Now, he’s traded a basketball for a microphone.
Find your selfie: the college experience

Kirby Knowlton  
@KIRBYKNOWLTON

Maybe you found your roommate on a Facebook group for admitted students. Maybe you followed all the schools you applied to on Twitter and let tweets influence your college decision. Maybe this morning you woke up to a picture of your face attached to a stranger’s face on @GamecockMakeout. Chances are, you’re in the 99 percent, which — according to some studies — is the current figure for how many college students use social media.

With just under 25,000 undergraduates, almost 67,000 followers on Twitter, and more than 108,000 “likes” on Facebook, USC is an undeniably huge and possibly intimidating school. Being just one person in a sea of thousands, it's easy to feel pressured to dive in as soon as possible, to stake a
experience through social media

claim before it's too late. Sure, there's the official campus visits and promotional brochures in the mail, but many an incoming freshman's first introductions to the school happen online. It could start by Instagram-ing a selfie with his or her acceptance packet and the hashtag “#UofSCYES.” One “like” here from another incoming freshman perusing the hashtag, another “like” from the official @UofSCAdmissions account and, pretty soon, the future student is connected to a whole USC social network — months before meeting anyone in person.

Many schools now have private Facebook groups that admitted students can join. These groups are meant for students to have a chance to introduce themselves, try to find roommates and even buy and sell dorm equipment and textbooks. Before walking into Russell House at lunchtime or onto the Horseshoe on a sunny day, these Facebook groups are many students' first impressions of what the general student body is like. They are also many students’ first chance to identify themselves. This can cause a lot of pressure to cultivate an online persona, one that may or may not be true to the student's real-life persona.

Even though every student has to decide for themselves how social and involved they want to be on campus, the push to get involved is clear the moment you step on campus. On the Russell House patio, some nice people are asking for petition signatures. The walls of each residence hall are covered in posters about this club and that organization. There's a paper attached to the napkin dispenser advertising Carolina Dining's Twitter account. All of this is great — a university cannot thrive without student participation. But the combined pressure to be active on campus and active on its social media network can be overwhelming and create anxiety over the possibility of not being involved enough.

Social media is so ingrained in our daily routines, so integrated into our relationships with others and understanding of ourselves that making sense of our on- and off-screen lives can become difficult. Like all the coming-of-age books and movies, nostalgic parents and cliché high school advisors tell us, college is the time to find yourself. As if that doesn't sound hard enough, most college students today have more "selves" to find. In addition to your real, everyday self, you've got your various social media selves to keep up with, possibly to update on a minute-to-minute basis.

Along with maintaining a friendly, approachable disposition in their real life, today's college student has to cover all of their bases online, so as not to appear uninvolved. Their Twitter has to be funny, but still smart; to show that they're political, but not annoying. Their Instagram must show they go out, but also do homework at local coffee shops; show they make time go to every football game and possibly Greek life events, but also stop to admire a rainbow over the Thomas Cooper Library fountain. Their Facebook must have photos that prove they're social, but ones that are still suitable for great-aunts and future employers to see. With balancing that many social agendas online, who has time for real-life social interaction? Or even for studying?

None of this is to say that social media is an evil force out to destroy every college student's psyche. But it is worth thinking about how social media is shaping your idea of yourself during this quintessential time of self-discovery and how it affects your relationships to your campus and fellow students.
Professor Casey Moore works in an off-white office on the seventh floor of the Welsh Humanities Building that is more-or-less the size of your average parking space.

Most of that is taken up by a great, white L-shaped desk on which sits a blocky Dell monitor and little else. There are no posters, no bookshelves and no window.

The only reason anyone passing in the hall would suspect that the office was in use is Moore's physical presence in the room. Were she to leave, the blank walls would leave no trace that she, or anyone else, had ever worked there.

The nameplate beside her office door is vacant.

The reason? Moore is an adjunct professor. That is to say, she's the kind of professor that spends 50 hours a week devoted to teaching, is similarly qualified to tenure-track professors and holds office hours, but has zero job security, pay that puts her only slightly above the poverty line and no guarantee of securing adequate health care.

Her nameplate is vacant because if she isn't rehired by the university next semester, they won't even have to bother to change it.
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I feel the need to italicize here: being an adjunct is more-and-more the default state of affairs for professors in public universities. As of 2013, 75 percent of all professors are adjuncts in public universities. In 1969, that number was 22 percent. (OK, the italics are over.)

What it amounts to is almost unthinkable state of affairs: a sprawling erudite underclass of “contingent” academics teaching at respected learning establishments who have trouble keeping their head above poverty level.

Let's start with the pay: adjuncts are compensated per class taught, and are usually barred from teaching more than a certain number of classes. At USC, that number is four (a staggering workload, by any standard.)

A 2012 study by the Coalition on the Academic Workforce came up with the median salary for each course taught: $2,700.

Put these particularly depressing pieces of information together, and we get an even more depressing reality: an adjunct lucky enough to teach four classes in both the fall and spring semesters will make $21,600 a year on average at any public university.

When I asked Moore about whether or not a full load of four classes is enough to live on, she answered quickly, “No. Absolutely not. What I make a year, I couldn’t afford your basic living expenses.”

She is able to afford being a professor only because her husband makes enough money to supplement her professors’ income.

Former USC Provost Michael Amiridis, who was in charge of faculty pay, agreed that something was wrong: “Say, OK, somebody’s teaching three courses at $5,000 per course. Three courses a semester, 15 and 15, that’s $30,000, right? Is this appropriate compensation for someone with a doctoral degree? The answer is no.”

The reason for this state of affairs? “This is where the market is right now,” he said. “We try to stay ahead of the market, but this is where the market is for some of these folks.”

In other words: the market has spoken. Nothing substantial can be done.

As for adjuncts' healthcare, the situation is as bad as you might think. Until the Affordable Care Act, universities had no obligation to give adjuncts benefits of any kind. Now, those who are able to snag the equivalent of three classes must, by law, have health coverage.

Until Jan. 1, when the ACA took effect, Moore had zero health insurance. Other adjuncts who were only able to get one or two classes, presumably, still don’t.

When the majority of professors in public schools are treated as an artificial underclass, students lose out. A 2006 study by Daniel Jacoby, a professor at the University of Washington Bothell, suggested that adjuncts don’t have enough time to spend with students because they often have to work second jobs.

Add that to a lack of office space and an inability to meaningfully influence scholastic policy, and you have a professor that is being forced to operate at less than his or her best.

Additionally, because adjuncts aren’t on a tenure track and have no job security, they don’t have the luxury of taking risks in the classroom.

That other older professors do. This can easily lead to a neutered syllabus, teaching style and content. (Try to imagine how intimidating those teacher evaluation forms must be to an adjunct, whose hope for future food depends, in part, in whether students bubble in “above average” instead of “average.”)

So, how are we going to handle this particular shame? How do you solve a problem where three out of every four public school professors are caught up in a system that denigrates them and, by proxy, the students they educate? How are you supposed to argue with “the market says so?”

Moore seems to think that it lies in changing the paradigm from an interchangeable flow of adjuncts to solidified, if underpaid, full-time instructor positions:

“If you’re going to have people teach the bulk of the classes that [assistant professors] don’t want to teach or that aren’t beneficial for their research to teach,” Moore said. “We need to create real positions for those people.”

In my view, trying to bend the ear of the university system will take more than good ideas spoken clearly by a discontented few. It will take real student action.

After all, students are the main revenue source for the university, and it is the students that come out the worse in the end, taught by professors whose economic status and position in the workplace limits the scope of their teaching.

“Part of it is an ignorance problem,” Moore said. “People don’t know that this is going on. Tenure-track faculty obviously know about adjuncts . . . but it’s really been this silent problem. Students should know where their money’s going.”

Students must be the most vocal and best organized contingent on behalf of their own professors. They are the parties chiefly affected. When the university betrays its adjuncts, it also betrays its students.

Because the saddest part of all this isn’t the pay or the lack of health care. It isn’t even the job insecurity. It’s the fact that adjunct professors are, apparently, willing to put up with all of it.

They will choose, morning after morning, to wake up before the sun, choke down a cup of dirt-bad Styrofoam coffee and drive to their off-white office with no posters, no bookshelves and no windows to prepare for an 8:30 a.m. class that most students will sleep through.

They will take being paid far less than their similarly-educated colleagues, and will smile and nod and work alongside them, all the while repressing the obvious question: “Why does her Ph.D. automatically qualify her for health insurance while mine doesn’t?”

They will approach the end of every single semester in the kind of anxiety that eats through bone marrow, never certain if they will be given enough teaching hours next term to pay for food.

They will put up with it because, when put in the right classroom with the right subject and the right students, the tiring absurdity of their situation drops away and becomes, somehow, worthwhile.

They are the hyper-educated working poor and they deserve better than this.

“When the university betrays its adjuncts, it also betrays its students.”
Gamecocks’ bench brings depth for team

Brennan Doherty
@BRENNAN_DOHERTY

In the semifinals of the SEC tournament earlier this season, the South Carolina women’s basketball team faced an upset-minded LSU squad. The Tigers had lost handily in their two prior games against the Gamecocks earlier in the season, but LSU made its third matchup with South Carolina very interesting, leading 31-27 at halftime. The Tigers were just 20 minutes away from stunning South Carolina, the league’s regular-season champion.

Insert Tina Roy.

Roy, a junior guard who regularly comes off the bench for the Gamecocks, scored 12 of her 15 points in the second half and reenergized South Carolina. Just like that, the Gamecocks were off to the races, en route to a 74-54 victory.

That’s just one example of the South Carolina bench stepping up for head coach Dawn Staley this season.

It’s not fair to call those who don’t start for the Gamecocks reserves. In some cases, they’re the stars.

Guard/forward A’ja Wilson, the SEC freshman of the year, has started just one game in her first year at the college level, but you wouldn’t know that by her stats. Wilson’s 13.3 points per game and 52.4 percent shooting percentage would warrant her a starting role on almost any team in America, but Staley has the luxury of sending her budding superstar to the scorer’s table several minutes after the tip-off.

The idea that Wilson, the former No. 1 high school prospect in the country, isn’t good enough to crack the starting five is a warning signs of sorts to other teams: South Carolina has talent. A lot of it.

As Vanderbilt head coach Melanie Balcomb put it after her team’s 89-59 loss to the Gamecocks back in February, “[Staley’s] best five come off the bench, pretty much.”

Perhaps there’s a bit of exaggeration in Balcomb’s claim. After all, junior guard Tiffany Mitchell, the SEC’s back-to-back player of the year, and senior forward Aleighsa Welch, the heart and soul of this year’s South Carolina team, are both starters.

But there is a truth in what Balcomb said. Roy, Wilson, sophomore center Alaina Coates, freshman guard Bianca Cuevas and freshman center Jatarie White, the five most frequent substitutes for South Carolina, account for 48.2 percent of the Gamecocks’ points per game.

Even senior guard Olivia Gaines, a junior college transfer, has carved out a role as a defensive stopper.

That kind of depth is rare in women’s basketball and the Gamecocks use it to their advantage. When teams tire of a player like Welch, who wears opponents down with her relentlessness in the paint, they’re then faced with someone with fresh legs like Coates.

One year removed from winning the SEC freshman of the year award, Coates recently admitted that she thinks she’s “simmered a little.” But what she might think of as a sophomore slump, others may consider an excellent season.

Coates averages 10.6 points per contest, third best on the team and her 6’4” frame has helped her earn a spot on the 2014-2015 SEC All-Defensive team.

Coates should start for South Carolina come next season, but she’s been a bench player in most of the games she’s played in at the college level.

The way she sees it, that’s fine. In fact, being able to check into a game and immediately leave her mark is something Coates takes pride in.

“Just coming in and being able to make an impact as great as that and people can notice that, I take a lot of pride in that,” Coates said.

As the season nears its end, but most important stretch, South Carolina should depend on its multitude of options more than ever. Schedules become compressed and players become more fatigued as the stakes rise.

Staley knows that much and she’s fortunate for what she calls the best bench production in the country.

“It’s going to help us be game ready,” Staley said. “We’re going to be allowed to have fresh legs and different ones.”
2014-2015 as tweeted by President Pastides

@HarrisPastides
I was just “carded” at the Carolina/Clemson baseball game. I was flattered ... and then showed them my AARP card!
Feb. 28, 2015 via web

@HarrisPastides
Sorry to not cancel classes today. Many parents, from up North, would have stopped paying tuition!
Feb. 17, 2015 via web

@HarrisPastides
Great news. Granddaughter wins weigh-off. Alice 23 lbs. Turkey 19 lbs. It’s a great week for Gamecocks! Happy Thanksgiving to all.
Nov. 27, 2014 via web

@HarrisPastides
Oct. 25, 2014 via web

@HarrisPastides
First day of school? You bet. Enjoy, and focus on learning inside and beyond the classroom. Education is the magic carpet of your life.
Aug. 21, 2014 via web
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