The Daily Gamecock, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2013

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Jimmy John’s

by Chloe Gould

It’s gourmet on the go. Jimmy John’s has cornered the college market — from Five Points to the Vista — with its listing of carefully crafted sandwiches on a dime. And its speedy and savory delivery earned the sandwich shop the crowning title in its first year. From its 8-inch subs to giant clubs to “unwiches,” Jimmy John’s houses every classic on the deli counter — with extra kick and a creative name to match.

The menu’s No. 1, Pepe, starts it all off with applewood smoked ham and provolone cheese, while the Totally Tuna serves as a house-made favorite. Both sit atop the list of originals with one mission: “Add to students’ GPA and general dating ability.”

Giant club sandwiches pack on the meat and cheese, making for a heartier post-bar snack or midday lunch stop. The Billy Club piles roast beef, ham and provolone on seven-grain or homemade French bread, while the Club Lulu, a personal favorite, pairs turkey breast and bacon for a simply mouthwatering TBLT combo.

But what scored Jimmy John’s the top spot in Columbia’s delivery joints? Save the supersonic store-to-door delivery time, which really is scary fast, Jimmy John’s offers all its gourmet-gone-casual sandwiches late at night. The chain’s Five Points location is open, and delivers, until 3 a.m. daily — feeding all of the students in their homebound stupor and diligent studiers locked away in the lower levels of Thomas Cooper Library alike in one fresh-made swoop.

And although the Vista’s Gervais Street stop is only open until 10 p.m., the setting makes for the perfect office lunch break or quick sit-down bite.

Best Delivery

Welcome to The Daily Gamecock’s Best Of Carolina 2012 special section!
Thousands of you voted for your favorite restaurants, student services, on- and off-campus living, fraternities and sororities, and plenty of other categories.

The votes have been tallied, and the tab in your hands contains reviews of the various establishments, services and attractions you named the best of Carolina.

The owners and managers of the various establishments have weighed in on the reasons for their success and from Mellow Mushroom’s pizza to Addam’s Bookstore, from Academic Centers for Excellence (ACE) to Cool Beans’ coffee, you told us where you go for the things you need.

So enjoy! Flip through, read up on the offerings of each organization and then get out and see the Best Of Carolina.

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Best,
Thanks for voting the Russell House Theater Runner-up at Best of Carolina!

Come out every Tuesday for the TUESDAY night Movie Series
Starts at 9PM

by Josh Dawsey

Cool Beans mixes its prime location, quirky menu, decadent desserts, flavorful coffee, reasonable prices and spacious, well-ordered study areas for a venue that can’t be missed.

Its flair is unique. A sign over one garbage receptacle says “your trash (no offense.)” Paintings by local artists adorn the walls and are available for purchase.

Feeling a little childish? Play Connect Four or one of the many other board games that sit on an upstairs shelf. And there’s free Wi-Fi, which benefits the college students who use the shop as a quiet study haven or raucous review group meeting place.

Cool Beans rotates five varieties of freshly brewed coffee each day, the rotation includes seasonal favorites like pumpkin spice and sleigh ride but always features a fair-trade coffee and the standard blend. Splash one of the shop’s many flavor syrups into the blend for a spunkier, sweeter touch.

There are all sorts of espresso drinks for purchase, as well, and unlike the local Starbucks, you can drink your mocha or cappuccino in glass, not plastic. Some of them have rather creative names, and their descriptions are posted on the shop’s colorful walls.

The coffee shop’s food bests many restaurants in Columbia. Try the homemade pints salad or delicious chicken salad. And there are several vegetarian-friendly options that are tasty, according to a few of the shop’s vegetarian patrons.

For a sweet morsel after your meal, a glass case abounds with homemade cakes and pies. On the counter sit fresh cheese danishes, chocolate-covered espresso beans and fresh cookies.

If you’re looking for a quiet, post-date dessert spot, or if you need to memorize the body’s various cranial nerves, find a table at Cool Beans and sit. But good luck studying if an Uno game is in progress.

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When the USC student body votes an eatery Carolina’s best restaurant, you know it’s good. But when the same establishment holds that crown year after year, you know it’s great.

California Dreaming on Main Street has not only been voted best overall restaurant, but also best date spot and best place to take parents, for three consecutive years.

So what makes this place so popular?

According to operating partner Richard Hendren, the answer is two-fold: “The food being correct, and the service being good.”

“You need both for a successful restaurant,” Hendren said. “If someone makes a mistake — and no one’s 100 percent — and overcooks food, it’s all about how you react to it. We try to take care of our guests.”

A little more elegant than most other restaurants in the capital city, California Dreaming is a somewhat upscale destination. Unlike the weekly stop down the street for a Moe Monday, whether you’re headed to California Dreaming with friends, a significant other or your parents, it tends to be for some kind of special occasion.

“We get lots of proms, graduations and of course, earlier this week, Valentine’s Day,” Hendren said. He said for a primetime Valentine’s Day dinner reservation, some couples called weeks in advance.

Hendren thinks California Dreaming’s newfound renown as a top place to bring parents is a tad off-base.

“I’m not sure if it’s that kids are taking their parents; I think it’s parents taking their kids,” he said with a chuckle. “I don’t think I’ve ever seen a kid come in and pick up the check.”

The restaurant’s location — about five blocks from the Horseshoe — makes it convenient for on-campus students, and while it’s a stand-alone building that stands away from any bars or other Columbia nightlife, it has what none of its Vista counterparts can offer: a parking lot free of charge.

But more than its atmosphere or its location, students and parents alike love California Dreaming for its menu, a smorgasbord of mouthwatering appetizers, scrumptious sandwiches and “Pittsburgh-style” steak, baby back ribs and seafood entrees.

The options seem endless, but all the best meals at California Dreaming start the same way — with either an onion ring loaf or an order of nachos that come with one of the four specialty dips: creamed spinach, seafood, barbecue chicken or the traditional (chili, cheese, jalapeno and sour cream).

California Dreaming’s sandwiches rival some of the best delis around town. You can get a burger just like you can anywhere else, but try finding another place in the city that can offer a sliced prime rib sandwich, a New Orleans shrimp po boy, a chicken chipotle wrap and a filet mignon sandwich.

California Dreaming is open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays and stays open until 11 p.m. on weekends.
Midtown Fellowship

BEST PLACE OF WORSHIP

After being voted the Best Place of Worship for the second year in a row, Midtown Fellowship didn’t know how to accept the award.

“We got it last year and it was kind of a weird thing to accept,” said Jay Hendricks, who leads musical worship at Midtown. “We were like, ‘Is there a competition because we don’t want there to be a competition?’ We don’t want to feel like we’re trying to compete for this thing or like we’re doing anything better. We don’t think we’re doing anything better – I think it’s just a little bit different.”

As far as musical worship, Hendricks credits people enjoying a different style from a traditional atmosphere, where hymns are sung with a choir.

At Midtown, the style is more contemporary, but Hendricks stresses that worship goes beyond music.

“One of the things that I want to do is communicate that my job isn’t just to get up there and sing songs or even just to lead people in songs, but to create an atmosphere for people to connect with the Lord,” Hendricks said. “I grew up in a church where it was stand up, sit down – I was told stand up we’re going to sing or sit down, I never really connected those two with the Lord. What we want to do is create an atmosphere that’s just because you’re not singing, it doesn’t mean it’s not worship.”

by Isabelle Khurshudyan

Thank You Students!

ACE appreciates your support!

ACE Services
Academic Success Coaching
M-Th: 12:4-4 pm, M-Th: 7-9 pm

Writing Consultations
M-Th: 4-7 pm

Math Tutoring
M-Th: 4-6 pm

Student Success Center
Colombia Hall
Student Success Center/Thomas Cooper Library
(803) 777,1000

For Voting us “Best On Campus Eats!”
by Josh Dawsey

For all the good Greek Life does at USC, fraternities are sometimes criticized for not being inclusive enough to non-Greek members.

Yet when Beta Theta Pi – USC’s newest fraternity – holds its annual Men of Honor banquet, the top accolade goes to a non-Greek member who “brings the fraternity’s values.”

The banquet has attracted attention from USC alumni President Harris Pastides spoke in 2010, and head baseball coach Ray Tanner delivered the address in 2011. Beta, which colonized at USC in 2009, has already generated quite a bit of buzz — for all the right reasons. The fraternity requires a 3.0 GPA to join and undertakes several noteworthy community service projects each semester.

“We have continued to try and recruit men of high standards who are looking for an experience greater than themselves, not just men who are out for party,” said Beta President Charlie Otten.

BEST SORORITY

by Isabella Khushudyian

The Alpha Chi Omega motto is “Together let us seek the heights.” and “Make Leigh’s Cure Happen,” and “Together let us seek the heights.” and “Make Leigh’s Cure Happen.”

For many of the families who moved their daughters into Patterson Hall last August, it was difficult to believe such a grandiose building was a freshman residence hall.

The mothers who actually called the Patterson home two decades prior found the renovation all the more astounding.

Gone are the typical woes of communal bathroom issues and drab residence hall.

The panoramic windows provide abundant natural light.

The location is perfect; less than a mile from campus and a walk to Williams-Brice Stadium. And there’s plenty of parking, at least if you’re not looking for a parking spot on a Friday or Saturday night.

Patterson Hall is the best of both worlds; a reasonably-priced, luxurious college complex that won’t cramp your budget or style.

by Josh Dawsey

With its soaring ceilings, expansive kitchens and spacious bedrooms, Olympia Mills rivals the size of apartment homes belonging to Manhattan millionaires.

Except it costs about $500 a month instead of $5,000.

There are dozens of student apartment complexes across Columbia, and they all try to convince you they’re the best. Yet making a case for Olympia isn’t difficult.

The bedrooms are spacious, and the bathrooms are almost as big. You’d be hard-pressed to find bigger bathrooms at any college apartment complex nationwide.

The panoramic windows provide abundant natural light, and the large living areas generate room for a racy dinner party, large soiree or just a plain ol’ party.

Washers and dryers are included in every apartment. A security guard mans the front desk, and residents are protected by a modern entry system. There’s an indoor fitness center that rivals any apartment complex in Columbia, and pool tables are scattered throughout the complex’s lounges.

Outside the apartment, there are several basketball and tennis courts. The same volleyball court provides a venue for many summer afternoon saris. when you’re too hot, just dive into the gigantic outdoor pool.

The outdoor porches — located on every floor — are perfect for a cocktail on a warm Southern evening.

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Paul Mitchell the School

Whether you’re looking for a quick trim in-between visits home, or wanting to completely re-vamp your style, Paul Mitchell School is offering Columbia complete hair treatments on a dime.

The school, tucked away in the Vista, starts with basic haircuts at just $10 — shampoo included — with color treatments beginning at $30.

“We’re inexpensive in comparison to a traditional salon, but, while cheap will get them in the door, the one time you don’t do good work, they’re not coming back,” said Scott Bills, Paul Mitchell School director.

And that’s where the student training comes into the Paul Mitchell cut.

“It’s that higher level training for our industry that people are coming back and saying ‘okay, it’s cheap but they’re doing good work,’” Bills said. “You’re getting the full salon treatment for a cheap price.”

There are about 150 students training at the school, and walk-in appointments are always welcome — although a call ensures an on-time spot. And the school just extended their hours beyond the normal 9 to 5.

The school recently introduced an evening program for their students, open the salon Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday night from 5 to around 10 p.m. Walk-ins or appointments can start a haircut as late as 8 p.m., with color treatments stopping around 7:30 p.m.

It’s a salon run by students that, in its second year as Columbia’s top hair salon, thrives on its student customers.

“USC students come over and give our students experience,” Bills said. “It’s a learning environment for us too.”

by Chloe Gould
quality food we can," he said. "Even if the food is a little more expensive because it's good for our customers." There are more than 100 items on the menu, and, unknown to many students who only hang with General Tso and his cousin Lo Mein, TeaPot also has a traditional menu. "Actual Chinese people come to sit here. We don't just sell chicken wings," Baraco said.

Located at 520 Knox Abbott Drive, Doc's is open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., Friday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Saturday from noon to 11 p.m. and Sunday noon to 10:30 p.m.

BEST AUTO REPAIR

by Thad Moore

For the third year in a row, Firestone has become a favorite of USC's students and faculty, and the store has returned the favor with a 10 percent discount on car services.

Car issues and maintenance don't always work around your schedule. Fortunately, Firestone Auto Care does.

The shop, which sits conveniently close to campus on the corner of Gervais and Barnwell streets, is open seven days a week, with hours from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays, Saturday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Between class, work and everything else, students have busy schedules, so you can schedule an appointment online at www.firestonecompleteautocare.com.

Tony Kowaleski, the shop's manager, said much of Firestone's speed and customer service comes down to his team's adherence to their "game plan."

"For the most part, it's helping the customer out," Kowaleski said. "[It's] trying to make it a hassle-free process and do as much as possible and telling the customer what they need and being able to show them what they need ... We try to be as prompt as we can, and that's the easiest thing to do in this business."

As a result, Firestone has become a favorite of USC's students and faculty, and the store has returned the favor with a 10 percent discount on car services.

Keep all that in mind the next time you need an oil change, a tune-up, a flat tire or the fix to whatever else might ail your car.

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For customers who are looking for more standard car maintenance, Capital Nails & Spa offers a range of artificial nail options and waxing treatments. A traditional manicure costs only $12.

Capital Nails & Spa has a large, relaxation-oriented setting, according to Lee. "We have 10,000 square feet — 3,000 downstairs and 7,000 upstairs," Lee said. "When you come in, you can bring your own drinks and food and you can completely relax while getting your manicure and pedicure done.

The salon's South Assembly Street location is also a plus for many. "It's really nice and clean, and we make sure it's always a nice environment," Lee said.

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From academic advice to campus involvement, coaching services at the Academic Center of Excellence (ACE) help ease students through the college transition. Rather than focus on tutoring for specific classes, this year’s winner offers coaching in areas outside of supplemental instruction for classes, from deciding on a major to improving general study skills. The 30-minute to one-hour sessions are free, and with four ACE locations on campus, are easily accessible to students. “USC is a big place, and to have one person sit down with you for an hour and talk about how things are going can really help students transition,” Student Success Center Assistant Director Claire Robinson said. “Students have different needs — some struggle with test anxiety, others with getting involved on campus. The coaching therefore is much more holistic.”

For students without garden hoses and soap buckets, a good car wash can be hard to come by. But Best of Carolina voters have chosen Frank’s Car Wash as the best in Columbia for the third year in a row. Owned and operated by three generations of the Hutchins family, the South Carolina franchise, since 1973, is well known for its hands-on approach, leading Frank’s to wash its eight millionth car this past year. Two rules are posted in the car wash: “Number one, the customer is always right. Number two, when you think the customer is wrong, reread rule number one.” Washes range in price from $5 for a basic exterior wash to $32 for a “Turtle Wax Ice Special.”

The sisters of Alpha Chi Omega thank the readers of the Daily Gamecock for voting us Best Sorority at USC two years running!
Just bring a valid student ID to any Columbia Jiffy Lube to save on your oil change.

10 Area Locations

Jiffy Lube
No coupon needed! No appointment required!

PASSWORD
OFF
Jiffy Lube, the Jiffy Lube design mark and Jiffy Lube Signature Service® are registered trademarks of Jiffy Lube International, Inc. ©2012 Jiffy Lube International, Inc. All rights reserved. Go Gamecocks!
The Apollo Dipper, The Brown Moose, The STP Dipper

The Sullivan, a favorite, comes with griddled pineapple. The Sullivan, a favorite, comes with guacamole, citrus jalapeno cheese and a slather of house-made jalapeno bacon. The Sullivan, a favorite, comes with guacamole, citrus jalapeno cheese and a slather of house-made jalapeno bacon. The Sullivan, a favorite, comes with guacamole, citrus jalapeno cheese and a slather of house-made jalapeno bacon.

All burger selections cost about $10 and can be substituted with grilled chicken.

Daily deals are a big draw for locals, and Pawleys’ college town appeal is a major factor in its popularity and success.

Every week to week, trivia categories include primarily questions on current events and general knowledge. People can include as few or as many members as desired, and the winners of the establishment are awarded to teams that come in first, second and third place, as well as to the team with the most original name that night. Trivia events include as questions — two worth five points, two worth 10 and two worth 15.

Pawleys Grande Stadium 14

While a normal ticket costs $9.00 at the Columbiana Grande, USC students pay $5.50 on student pricing days. Columbiana Grande’s facilities are also exceptionally large.

“We have the largest auditorium sizes in town and our screens are the highest in town; they’re 18 inches high,” Caldwell said. “Nobody should ever block your view no matter how big their hat or hair is.”

Another detail setting Columbiana Grande apart from its competition is its wide variety of concessions.

“We offer everything from normal popcorn and peanuts to Nathan’s hot dogs — products are also served at Columbiana Grande’s concession stand,” Caldwell said.

Columbiana Grande is excited to be named best movie theater once more.

“We’re proud to have been named Best Movie Theater in Five Points, which has been awarded with the Best Sandwich for Every Day fare to hungry fans in Columbia, Irmo, Cayce and Columbia. Irmo, Cayce and Columbia. Irmo, Cayce and Columbia. Irmo, Cayce and Columbia. Irmo, Cayce and Columbia.

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When it comes to dance floors, size matters.

That's why Red Hot Tomatoes, the largest bar in Five Points, has won Best Dance Spot for the past three years. With three bars, two stories and one wild reputation, Red Hot Tomatoes — known by many Five Points aficionados simply as ‘Red Hots’ — is the staple of any 21st birthday rage.

And with $3 vodka and bourbon and $2.25 Bud Light Platinum drink specials every day, students have a reason to keep coming back.

Late at night, many are drawn to the bright movie marquee and beckoned inside the doorway to a bohemian paradise of music and dancing. And if you’re not the dancing type, the bar’s website mentions big-screen TVs, a pool table and the obligatory “lovely ladies walking around with Jell-O shots.”

And for those of you with expensive tastes, did you know Red Hots’ VIP menu includes bottles of Dom Perignon and Cristal? That’s drinking responsibly.

by Ryan Quinn

spaces going fast for fall 2012

great location to the stadium—walk to the game

2 private shuttles to USC + great location to the stadium + individual leases + fitness center resort-style amenities + private bedrooms + fully furnished + pet friendly + gated community

UNIVERSITY OAKS
uoaks.com | 803.252.2634 | 21 National Guard Rd

Thank you for voting us number one!

Check Facebook and Twitter for weekly specials. Check our website for the menu.
930 Gervais Street • 803.779.9599 • Nonnahs.com • #NonnahsVita

Carolina 2012

Red Hot Tomatoes

nonnah's

BEST OF
CAROLINA 2010

BEST OF
CAROLINA 2011

BEST OF
CAROLINA 2012

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Lines that snake forth from the bountiful glazed-in food cases at Colloquium Café often kneel in awe of the variety and faculty with quite the dilemma. The constant commotion of campus life makes you want to hurry to another class or meeting. The uptake café, College and faculty with quite the dilemma. The constant commotion of campus life makes you want to hurry to another class or meeting. The uptake café, College and faculty with quite the dilemma. The constant commotion of campus life makes you want to hurry to another class or meeting. The uptake café, College and faculty with quite the dilemma. The constant commotion of campus life makes you want to hurry to another class or meeting. The uptake café, College and faculty with quite the dilemma. The constant commotion of campus life makes you want to hurry to another class or meeting. The uptake café, College and faculty with quite the dilemma. 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The Flying Saucer Draught Emporium of Columbia is adorned, from wall to wall and even on the ceiling, with “flying saucers” — in honor of the bar’s most dedicated who have tried at least 200 beers.

For the third year in the row, the Best of Carolina voters have chosen Flying Saucer as the bar with the best beer selection in Columbia — and rightly so. With more than 240 different kinds of beer and 100 different brewing styles — 81 on tap — from all over the United States and the world, you’d be hard-pressed to find a wider selection.

Flying Saucer boasts an impressive U.F.O. club for its patrons, deemed “beerknurds.” Members are credited up to three beers a day. All they do is swipe their cards at the front of the establishment, and their membership is updated with the beer they drink that visit. Members are rewarded with free appetizers and gift cards once they reach particular milestones, but only when a member hits 200 beers is he or she awarded a plate with his or her name, as well as a $100 gift card to spend any way at the bar.

Flying Saucer encourages trying a variety of beers with its “flight samplers” that feature five different beers from regions, such as the Carolinas, Germany, the United States or Great Britain for $9 per flight.

Monday is Pint Night at Saucer, with “damn near all” pints advertised for $3. The establishment also features rare keg nights on Wednesday and Thursday, trivia every Tuesday and live music every Monday and Friday.

Flying Saucer is located in the Vista at 931 Senate St. and is open Tuesday and Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m., Monday and Thursday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. and Sunday from noon to midnight.

Technically, Grandma’s doesn’t have what the city of Columbia considers to be a happy hour, but that doesn’t mean students don’t love the hourlong special the bar boasts every night of the week. And for the second year in a row, Grandma’s “power hour” has been voted the Best Happy Hour.

Typical happy hours in other bars and restaurants take place earlier in the evening and offer drinks at discounted prices. At Grandma’s, however, from 10 to 11 p.m., customers pay a set price of $8 to sample the bar’s house liquor — what’s known as a “power hour” instead of happy hour. For those committed partiers looking to start their bar hopping in Five Points fairly early in the night, the deal doesn’t get any better than at Grandma’s. And with not much else to do in the bar but drink, one might as well take advantage of the nontraditional happy hour.

Like most bars in Five Points, most of the clientele at Grandma’s are students while school is in session, but a wide range of personalities that all seem to get along tend to make their way to the bar’s power hour to start the night off right. Grandma’s is located in Five Points at 724 Harden St. and is open every day of the week.