NASCAR president talks progress

Helton predicts bright future for motor sport

Dennis Kubo

The 2014 Thomas H. Regan Executive Lecture Series kicked into high gear on Thursday as Mike Helton, President of NASCAR, spoke at the Belk Auditorium.

The lecture came as the featured event of the second annual HRSM Executive Lecture Series kicked into high gear on Thursday as Mike Helton, President of NASCAR, spoke at the Belk Auditorium.

Helton, President of NASCAR, into high gear on Thursday as Mike Helton, President of NASCAR, spoke at the Belk Auditorium. Helton's initial speech, which was held in the Belk Auditorium, will have many different types of athletes from NASCAR, working in the sport. NASCAR is hailed as the most popular motor sport in America. In recent years, however, it has seen its popularity, revenues and sponsorships plummet, according to NPR news.

NASCAR can have a reputation for being a primarily Southern sport, with its demographics primarily composed of older, Southern white males. As a result, a common question asked of Helton by the audience was surrounding NASCAR’s attempts at continued relevance into the 21st century.

Helton, in his initial speech, mentioned the lesson he was forced to learn from such companies as Kodak, which once controlled up to 89 percent of photographic film sales in the United States but filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in January 2012.

Helton also mentioned efforts that NASCAR has made in recent years to reinvigorate the fan base.

Bridge crash ruled intentional

Investigators have determined that the January crash from the Blossom Street bridge into the Congaree River was a murder-suicide.

According to the Columbia Police Department, Denzel Whyatt Jr. was driving with Shannon V. Mickens as a passenger when the 1999 Ford Explorer crashed through the side railing of the bridge and fell into the Congaree River.

Richland County Coroner Gary Vona said Whyatt had a blood-alcohol content of .127 percent and that there were traces of marijuana in both Whyatt’s and Mickens’ systems.

The police report said Mickens had swallowed pills before the incident that Whyatt said he was going to drive off the Blossom Street bridge.

Sarah Martin, Assistant News Editor

SC writers give advice on careers

Authors come together to share stories, lessons learned

Anthony Decoro

A collective of South Carolina native writers came together in the Coliseum on Thursday to speak to students and faculty about their experiences writing “State of the Heart: South Carolina Writers on the Places They Love,” and their careers as writers.

Aïda Rogers, who served as editor, said that she conceived the project and selected the different writers who were involved, including Kondell Bell, Chaire Delance, Sandra Johnson, Donnie Johnson and Vennie Dus Moore.

The book documents the common threads the writers regarding their hometowns and where they came from. Published by the University of South Carolina Press, it has been received very well in the community, with a second volume currently in the works.

The authors answered questions from students and faculty concerning their careers and experiences as writing professionals.

WRITERS • 2
Students stage walk-out to protest McConnell

A group calling itself “Fight for CoC” is planning a “walk-out” for Friday, The Post and Courier reported. The group is staging the protest because it disagrees with the Board of Trustees choosing Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell as the College of Charleston’s next president.

Brandon Upson, the organizer of the “walk-out” and a local educator, said he is upset about how McConnell was chosen to be president, calling the decision unfair, tainted and a “pre-determined choice.”

The group is asking students, faculty and alumni to gather at the Cistern at 1:15 p.m. and for supporters to stage a “teach-in” on Monday, where professors will offer lessons to the crowd on protest movements.

---Sarah Martin, Assistant News Editor

IN BRIEF

Amputee to debut personal documentary

Army Staff Sgt. Travis Mills, a quadruple amputee, will be showing a documentary in Columbia about his experience. The State reported.

“Travis: A Soldier’s Story” documents Mills’ story of being an amputee during a third tour of duty in Afghanistan. Working with the 82nd Airborne in 2012, he lost parts of both arms and legs because of an IED, or improvised explosive device. Of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, Mills is one of only five quadruple amputees to survive such injuries.

The documentary will be presented by the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary—Academy of Faith and Leadership on Friday, and Mills will answer questions after the showing.

—Sarah Martin, Assistant News Editor

McMaster enters race for lieutenant governor

Former S.C. Attorney General Henry McMaster has officially filed to run for lieutenant governor, The State reported.

McMaster, 66, is joined by other Republicans in the race for the position, and is the third Republican candidate who is affiliated with Gov. Nikki Haley, having served on her transition team once she was elected. McMaster served as state attorney general from 2003 to 2011 and as chairman of the S.C. Republican Party for eight years. He also ran for governor in 2010 but, at which point he accepted a co-chair position on Haley’s ethics reform task force.

Winthrop University political scientist Scott Huffmon said that McMaster’s filing will change the dynamics of the lieutenant governor race.

---Sarah Martin, Assistant News Editor

WRITERS • Cont. from 1

writers. When asked if writing is purely a science or an art, the authors said that it is a mixture of both, and that in order to be a good writer, you must appeal to the reader; however, a talent for language and aptness for sentence formation helps.

“It’s hard to write when you’re tired everyday, it’s easier to write about a subject that you are interested in,” Rogers said. The authors also took time to speak about past endeavors and how they originally became interested in writing. “I started my career as a scientist, and then became interested in folklore after a tenure at George Washington University,” said Moore, a folklorist and photographer. Speaking about her experience at the university, where she became interested in writing after visiting the school’s English department, she said she ended her tenure in order to pursue a full-time career as a writer.

The authors also spoke passionately about writing and its future in the information age, with Johnson speaking about her concerns regarding communication trends and younger generations.

“Vanderbilt’s connection with the written word is often text messaging, and that’s where it begins and ends.”

Johnson went on to speak about the authors she holds in the highest regard, such as Harper Lee, who she says has an admirable mastery of ordinary words with simple statements. “I want to make ordinary words powerful,” she added, saying that the most difficult thing to do as a writer is to captivate a reader with subtle language.

NASCAR • Cont. from 1

playoff system that culminates in a four-man race for the overall championship. “Our responsibility is to ensure that what happens on the racetrack draws people to the racetrack,” Helton said. “We have a large social media presence set up, so we’re constantly reviewing feedback from fans.”

Helton also said the key to keeping NASCAR relevant is to attract young and more diverse audiences, stating that NASCAR was looking for fans “as young as 4.”

Overall, Helton said that he remains optimistic NASCAR will be able to “steer itself back into the mainstream of American culture, a place which it has occupied since its foundation in 1947.”

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day or watched the bands perform at night. Sperry sent a crew to begin setting up the event on Wednesday morning, and worked on breaking down the set through Thursday night, Mayer said.

Students also received free promotional items from Sperry, including towels, tote bags, cups, socks, t-shirts and frisbees, according to Baade, a second-year sports and entertainment management student and CP’s concerts coordinator.

“It was so much fun to work with them, and see how excited they were to meet students,” Baade said. “They were passionate about creating a fun atmosphere and the relationship we built with them helped make it such a great event.”

Speaking on the success of the event, Baade also said that Carolina Productions will be looking to sponsor similar kinds of events in the future. “It’s definitely a direction we all want to go. The music festival atmosphere is different and exciting, and offers a wider range of music than a normal event,” Baade said.

Along with passing on the word about the concert series, Carolina Productions members also helped hand out promotional items and work the daytime events before the performances.

“We interacted with students and made them feel welcome,” Baade said. Security was also present at the event, with Columbia Police Department and USC Police stationed around the main stage on Greene Street.

According to Baade, the band members helped make the process run more smoothly as well. “The bands were awesome and fun to work with. It was my first major concert, which was intimidating at first, but they put me at ease and were excited to be here with us,” Baade said. “They watched each other perform and were friends, and it was fun to see them interact.”

Now that the Vacationland College Tour is over, Mayer and Baade are already looking at making future Carolina Productions events as successful. Saying that the concert series set the bar really high, the organization is now gearing up for its next major spring concert, which will be officially announced March 31. Kicking off his Sperrys and rubbing his sore feet, Baade was already looking toward the future.

“We try to top our events every time,” he said. “It’s a fun challenge.”

Jeremy Marshall Harkness / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

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Overall: We try to top our events every time, it’s a fun challenge.
Medical marijuana bill step in right direction

The Daily Gamecock

IT'S YOUR RIGHT

The goal of The Daily Gamecock Voices page is to stimulate discussion in the University of South Carolina Student community. All published authors are members of the Student Voices Community. The page accepts all reasonable arguments to back their own views. Any reader who wants to share an opinion is invited to do so by submitting a letter to the editor. Letters must be 200 to 300 words in length and include the author's name, year in school, major and campus address. We also invite student leaders and the campus community to submit guest columns. Columnists should pick a topic that is related in some way to the page’s theme in length and include the author’s name, year in school, major and campus address. The white reviews the right to edit these columns for length and clarity, so not all published columns necessarily reflect the views of the columnists.

All submissions become the property of The Daily Gamecock. The Daily Gamecock reserves the right to refuse to publish any material it deems inappropriate. All material must conform to the legal standards of USC Student Media. All published authors must be approved by the House and Gov. Nikki Haley before being enacted. Furthermore, The Daily Gamecock reserves the right to refuse to publish any material it deems inappropriate.

E-donations help, but don’t get lazy

Technology enables effortless altruism, but remember to volunteer

As an exchange student from Korea, I have noticed how far I am from home when I log on to Facebook. It isn’t that my feed was flooded with endless advertisements or the latest Internet sensation to sweep across the world. What I noticed was when I mentioned it to my American friends that I realized the company that made it appear was Tesco.

#nomakeupselfie came in defense of actress Kristen Stewart, who was criticized at the Oscars. Women around the world were urged to take a selfie with no makeup on and post it to social media sites as a statement. It was instant.

Since then, the trend has been picking up. Taking what is known as the #nomakeupselfie, women became connected to raising awareness of breast cancer, and Facebook users were asked to take a selfie and share it. After a few more posts on their own, many took the challenge and changed their profile pictures to #nomakeupselfie alongside their profile.

Then came the backlash of virulent criticism and debate. So much backlash that one would want to know the question: How does taking a #nomakeupselfie affect anything to fighting cancer? Feminists everywhere, myself included, were rolling their eyes and shaking their heads. Despite their bewilderment, taking a picture of one’s self without wearing foundation was a conscious step to the pudding to the dark fight against breast cancer.

The loosely based viral selfie was inspired by the breast cancer awareness did its part in our society. As consequent as it is to pretend that you’re doing your part by posting your #nomakeupselfie, the research needs cold hard cash in order to find a cure.

As a woman, I found the whole trend embarrassing. Not only did it turn charity into a self-indulgent gesture of taking a selfie to probe for compliments about one’s appearance over Facebook, it sent out a damaging message that women are only desirable if they wear makeup, and that women are only desirable if they wear makeup.

Epidiolex are extremely limited in their options. Considering this, #nomakeupselfie campaign has raised $8 million. What began as an individualistic, half-hearted attempt to “raise awareness” of one’s cancer... As the money morphed, we must not forget that altruism is an effective way to use technology in the name of raising money for charities. For those without either of the substances for medical or recreational use. In our Southern region, is carefully considered because decriminalization, a recent bill to allow children with severe epilepsy to use cannabidiol oil to control their seizures shows a promising level of open-mindedness.

Keep in mind, the bill has only journeyed through S.C. Senate. It still needs to pass the S.C. House. It still needs to have no psychoactive elements, so it is not a type of medical application that some of us may use to turn marijuana to South Carolina is still far from legal prescription, let alone complete decriminalization. Furthermore, the U.S. is undergoing a massive paradigm shift regarding the usage of marijuana. Two states have already decriminalized marijuana and 18 more allow marijuana to be prescribed for those having with glaucoma or cancer. As times are changing, and the body of knowledge improves, minds are being changed and steps are being made. Even still, many South Carolina politicians remain staunchly opposed to the notion. However, we don’t think our Southern politicians have recognized this, and are taking the necessary first steps in which marijuana is carefully considered because decriminalization, a recent bill to allow children with severe epilepsy to use cannabidiol oil to control their seizures shows a promising level of open-mindedness.

Lawmakers shouldn’t advocate for dealerships

Like electricity, successful businesses take the path of least resistance. For Tesco Movers, the premium electric car company, this means bypassing dealerships and selling their vehicles directly to consumers. Sure enough, dealerships across the country are up in arms over Tesco’s dealings and have resorted to taking legal action to shut down their business model. Automobile dealerships have now outdated retail model backed by state legislation drafted decades ago. When communication and interaction wasn’t nearly instantaneous, dealers served as necessary service provider for car owners. Today, their midmarket service is unnecessary. We have the ability to consult directly with the carmaker instead of meddling with a dealership, but rather than let the dealerships fail as casualties of capitalism, politics have kept them alive. Tesco now threatens their artificial success, and dealership owners scramble to save their business before the threat of other causes falling in Tesco’s path materials.

Tesla recently made headlines arguing that Tesco has violated state anti franchise laws, the same laws drafted decades ago that are the backbone of today’s car industry. Congress and the auto association claims the legislation against direct sales as an anti-competitive price competition. Without them, they argue, the companies wouldn’t be able to compete. Obviously dealers compete against each other, but they’ve got to work a profit somewhere. Eliminating their margin to feed what should be enough money to the companies that retailers enjoy. What consumers really want is for the car industry to be competitive supported by state anti franchising laws. At the meantime, we can’t enjoy our capitalist market when prehistoric market needs are left completely unregulated. Tesla was possibly be lost, but that’s the price of progress.

For the dealerships, it may mean losing any existing dealers, but they’ll have real reason to worry with other carmakers adapts. Sidestepping independent franchises is a preconceived innovation of an industry. Tesla’s logical and pragmatic, and a promising adaptation to the market and technological environment.

Then again, the dealerships could adapt accordingly too. Perhaps their market not dimming, but that doesn’t mean they can’t find a new niche. Instead of relying on fluffy- pick up arguments or lawmakers to nurse them, Tesla began seeking the new role as expert customer service.

WHAT’S YOUR TAKE?

Do you want your opinion voiced in The Daily Gamecock? Contact editor@dailygamecock.com for more information.

The Daily Gamecock
Meet Comedy Central’s newest sweethearts

As the Grammy Award-winning Parker Quartet approaches the end of its three-week residency at USC’s School of Music, it seems as though the group’s experience here has been, overall, a good one.

The Quartet has recently come to USC from Monte Carlo, and will soon travel to South Korea, Indonesia and Canada. During their School of Music residency, the quartet has spent its time performing and coaching high school students from Irine High School and Crossroads Middle School.

The Quartet hope the work they are doing with students will be very helpful and influential in their future endeavors, according to cellist Kee-Hyun Kim.

“[There are so many other artists with different schoolings, and different experiences from all over the world, and we just hope to add to the wealth of knowledge and add to their perspective of music],” Kim said.

All the work they have done with students will come to an end with USC’s Chamber Music Day and Competition on Saturday, where students will compete for a cash prize. Each member of the Quartet has been a coach to students; on Saturday, they will see how much their students have improved.

Having been together for 12 years now, the Quartet has developed a synchronistic way to perform together. According to Kim, the group attempts to make a unique performance for every song.

“[We] bring a fresh perspective to every piece we’re working on,” Kim said. “We do a lot of educational outreach and try to reach as many people as possible, and break down a lot of barriers.”

The fusion of professionals and students during these past three weeks have accomplished the Quartet’s goal of breaking down barriers, and it will be evident when students take the stage on Saturday. Though the Quartet does not write its own music, the opportunity students have to learn from such a well-known name in the classical music world is exhilarating.

“Whether it helps them on their path in their pursuits, it seems as though the group attempts to make a unique performance for every song.”

Abbi Jacobson and Ilana Glazer of “Broad City” just wrapped up their first season on Comedy Central this past Wednesday with a hilarious finale to great results.

“Broad City” started as a web series with Abbi Jacobson and Ilana Glazer of “Broad City,” one of the best shows to hit Comedy Central. According to Kim, the group attempts to make a unique performance for every song.

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Produced by Amy Poehler, “Broad City” started as a web series with a cult following. It premiered on television this January with almost a million viewers, already making it one of the hot shows to hit Comedy Central.

The main characters, writers and creators of “Broad City,” Abbi Jacobson and Ilana Glazer, are the irreplaceable New Yorkers you wish you could be best friends with. The show follows their daily life, whether that includes smoking in the bathroom of a dentist’s office, losing after their mysteriously hot neighbor or sleeping with the holder of your social security card, Jacobson said to Glazer in the season finale.

Even though it’s a hard line to walk, “Broad City” has managed to create a show that’s real enough to be explicit in a feminine way, which is just one thing that makes it great. But you don’t have to take my word for it, even after just one season, the fan base on sites like Tumblr is enormous.

Even though it’s over for now, keep looking out for season two, because it’s bound to be great. Despite the stereotypes about female comedians, “Broad City” has proven that women are, in fact, funny.
Takeout can eat up your savings.

Pack your own lunch instead of going out. $6 saved a day x 5 days a week x 10 years x 4% interest = $19,047. That could be money in your pocket. Small changes today big back tomorrow. Go to feedthepig.org for free savings tips.

Summer Financial Aid Applications
Available On SSC

If you plan to attend Summer School and wish to utilize financial aid, you MUST complete a Summer Financial Aid Application on SSC

Application Period
April 1 to May 1

Step:
1. Log onto SSC
2. Choose “Financial Aid”
3. Choose “Summer Financial Aid Application”
4. Select the Columbia campus
5. Select “Continue”
6. Select “Admit Year - USC Columbia 2013-14”
7. Submit

For more information: www.scarolinafinancialaid.org 803-777-8134 - uscfaid@usc.edu

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Garnet\&Black • Continued from 5

It is like becoming just as well known of a name in the classical music world or helps them when auditioning for colleges, it will be something to remember.

For more information on The Parker Quartet, you can visit their website at www.parkerquartet.com. Admission is free to the public for the competition Saturday, and the Quartet takes the stage at 11:15 a.m. The competition begins at 7:30 p.m.

The University of South Carolina is an equal opportunity institution.
Cancer
An old dream could be pursued now, or for future reference if you can’t go now. Take care of a dream. Investment produces high returns. Call and ask. There is a penny earned. Joy.

Gemini
Make long-range plans, including a happy life in stars. Emotions could also be seen the next two days. Forever perfect. It may take patience. Persevere a partner with a good family. Your spirit is good.

Taurus
You could be healing the goods. Get creative, and the results go further than imagined. Change it up some. Research new paradigms and opportunities. Look at a market further. Set lofty goals, and cheer them together.

Horoscopes
Aries
Your dreams feel prophetic today and tomorrow. There’s a positive shift emotionally. Express compassion, and gain more than expected. Change could go farther than imagined. Talk about long-term visions, and create ways to support each other.

Leo
Organize your finances today and tomorrow. Grow one family’s plans. Learn a trick from someone you love. Research doubled auroras and get to the bottom. Reward yourself with candles. Write up improvements. Include several words. Say: Share a dream.

Capricorn
You feel like you’re emerging from a cocoon today and tomorrow. Reveal your secret. Talk about a dream. Confer with your partner. Circumstances shift to open new avenues. Think about it from a long-term perspective.

Aquarius
The next two days go over better thanbrlsruhe. Open a party at your house, and invite friends over to have plenty of support. You’re best ideas come from home. You could succeed. A good mystery is good now.

Sagittarius
A dream or vision could go further than imagined. Talk about your passion. You’re especially lowable to make this work. North Star ofopportunity arises. Make use ofyes talents. Adapt as the situation changes.

Pisces
For solutions to today’s puzzle, go to dailygamecock.com or download our app!
Battle for the Carolinas set out West

Aleighsa Welch said the team cannot get caught up in its postseason success.

season, this weekend's home series

motivation on the mound this

like he has needed any added

career of the Sevierville, Tenn.

weight than any other in the young

Crowe   has built a team-leading

the Gamecocks rank fourth in the

Joey Pankake's   current hitting

ranks fourth in a South Carolina

America's national rankings   and 21st

weekend ranks 22nd in Baseball

DGARRISON@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Danny Garrison

USC, Tennessee tied with 3 others for first place

Freshman starting pitcher Wil Crowe has built a team-leading 3.0 record in his first year with the South Carolina baseball team and, according to head coach Chad Holbrook, he's well on his way to a spot on the Freshman All-America team.

And while Crowe hasn't looked like he needed any added motivation on the mound this season, this weekend's home series against Tennessee carries more weight than any other in the young career of the Sevierville, Tenn.

"It feels good to play against them. I try to get hits every game," Pankake said. "I'm a good team. We're just going to make sure we do what we're supposed to do."

Crowe is a member of a South Carolina team that has proven to be one of the best in the nation so far this year. Through March 23, the Gamecocks ranked fourth in the country in earned run average and third in strikeout-to-walk ratio.

The freshman has done plenty to stand out in the stacked South Carolina rotation, and Holbrook said he's been pleasantly surprised with Crowe's production.

"We've been very consistent for us since we came back to school in January," Holbrook said. "His pitch ability has improved me. He's been able to change speeds a lot better and be known that the team is not done with this."

"There's no. 3 seed Gamecocks at a disadvantage since the NCAA's decision not to allow Columbia to become a regional site pushed the tournament to Stanford.

Tip-off against North Carolina is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. EST Sunday evening, and the game will be available on ESPN2 as well as WatchESPN.

Joey Pankake extended his hitting streak to 12 games Wednesday in South Carolina's 4-0 win over Coastal Carolina.

I told our guys last night that we're going to have to do our part, we're going to have to score," Holbrook said. "It's (SEC) 30 games, and each one of them is important," Holbrook said. "You're 4-0, but it's three, one-game series in my book."