The University of North Carolina’s Tar Heel Raas perform a traditional-style Indian dance at Saturday’s ‘Night of Fire’ competition.

Indian dance competition donates some funds to charity

Mikelle Street

The Indian Cultural Exchange put on its fifth-annual Aag Ki Raat, “Night of Fire,” dance competition Saturday night in the Koger Center.

The event, which donated a percentage of its proceeds to Aman Biradari, hosted nine teams in three different categories, all competing for a grand prize of $1,200. Aman Biradari is a charity that focuses on education and unity in South Asia.

There were three categories of dance: bhangra, garba and fusion. Bhangra is a type of folk dance; garba, also called raas, is traditional Indian dance; and fusion is a combination of dance types.

The University of North Carolina’s Tar Heel Raas returned to the competition. Fusion combines traditional and contemporary dances.

The competition was preceded by a pep rally on Friday at Sharrcky’s in Five Points, where there was a meet and greet with the competing teams and a reception with Indian Food provided by Delhi Palace right before the competition.

USC’s male a capella group Soundcheck opened the night of competition by singing the Star Spangled Banner, which was followed by a performance of the Indian National Anthem by students of the Columbia Temple School.

The night was emceed by Maaz Khan and third year accounting student Kristi Govind, who explained “we’re in a dream of a dream that had a baby with the first dream.”

The two kept up the humor as the night went on.

NIGHT OF FIRE #7

‘Night of Fire’ sets Koger Center ablaze

Jared Hull

The University of North Carolina’s Tar Heel Raas perform a traditional-style Indian dance at Saturday’s ‘Night of Fire’ competition.

Salary data now online

Following Friday’s story that USC officials awarded significant salary increases for some of USC’s highest-paid employees, we received dozens of comments, emails and phone calls from outraged readers.

Many asked us for more data.

On Tuesday, USC officials would like you to believe these raises are all deserved. We think you have a right to know. You can see the raises given in 2009.

We’re doing this because of your money, and we think you have a right to know. Government is practiced best under rays of sunshine, and if these employees are getting bonuses of $50,000 or more on top of salaries that are often $200,000 or more, you at least deserve to know who is getting them.

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We’d like to report more on these salary increases, but today is our last paper of the semester. You’ll see more information next semester.

Have a good summer!

— Josh Diezert, Editor-in-Chief

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— Josh Diezert, Editor-in-Chief
USC students presented their in-depth research studies to a panel of judges and fellow students Friday for the ninth-annual Discovery Day in the Russell House ballroom and theater. 

Sponsored by Office of Undergraduate Research, the event featured oral and creative presentations as well as poster presentations followed by an award ceremony in subjects varying from chemistry to arts and humanities.

Second-year marine science students Emma Kelley and Kyra Marsigliano exhibited their studies funded by Students Engaged in Aquatic Sciences through a poster about undergraduate-driven research at the Belle W. Baruch Institute for Marine and Coastal Sciences.

The pair has conducted research four times since last semester at the Baruch Institute near Georgetown, S.C. with their mentors earth and oceans sciences professor Claudia Benitez-Nelson and biological sciences professor Tammi Richardson. They invited USC-Columbia and USC-Sumter students interested in marine life and introduced them to different marshes, beaches and ecosystems to learn what different types of species live in those areas. They also investigated how different mesh sizes will catch different animals.

Though they said the study was preliminary, both students said the main purpose of their study was to participate in undergraduate research. “We eventually want to study long-term trends and continue this in future years,” Marsigliano said.

Fourth-year biology student Laurie Graves used her $1,400 grant from the Honors College to look deeper into estrogen receptors and epigenetics in human female skeletal muscle. Participating in Discovery Day for a second year, Graves said she has been working on the study since September but plans to conduct more studies before she eventually submits it to a higher panel.

“The grant helped me complete my thesis, which will help me start medical school at MUSC in August,” Graves said.

According to Director of Undergraduate Research Jenny Morris, a 20 percent increase of participants was seen since last year and 60 percent since 2009.

“I think awareness has a lot to do with the increase. This is essentially USC Connect in the flesh,” she said. Morris also said there has been a noticeable trend in the increase in arts and humanities studies, as well as sociology and business research.

“It’s like our saying — there’s discovery for every discipline. We really want to embrace that.”

Comments on this story? Visit: dailygamecock.com/news

“Some students were late to the event and others were on time.”

Students performed music as part of their research presentation on Discovery Day. The event saw a 20 percent increase in participants since last year, and 60 percents since 2009.
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Everyone has different factors to blame for weight gain, but there is a scientific explanation for obesity. David B. Allison shared these explanations as part of his lecture "Obesity: A Look Through the Kaleidoscope" Friday afternoon in the Public Health building on Assembly Street.

Allison is head of the Section on Statistical Genetics and director of the Clinical Nutrition Research Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. His lecture on Friday framed statistics from his own research as well as data collected by his colleagues and former students.

The lecture was subtitled "A Look Through the Kaleidoscope" because "Each look through the kaleidoscope reveals a new picture — sometimes beautiful, always unexpected," Allison said.

The lecture was part of the Delta Omega Honorary Society's annual series. The lecture series was started by G. Thomas Chandler, dean of the Arnold School of Public Health, as "a tribute to the highest performing students and faculty." Allison's lecture was the third of its kind at USC.

According to Allison, South Carolina ranks fifth nationwide in adult obesity and 13th in childhood obesity. The first part of his lecture focused on explaining what obesity is and what factors contribute to obesity. Allison said a good description of obesity is the law of thermodynamics.

Some of the research conducted by Allison and his colleagues yielded results that surprised the audience. One of Allison's colleagues conducted an experiment in which mice were given a five percent caloric intake reduction, which would be equivalent to 150 calories in humans, and the mice actually gained fat from the reduction of food. Allison's explanation of this compared the loss of calories to a budget crisis at a university.

"When a university is losing money, what do you do? Protect the endowment and lay off a portion of the work force," Allison said. The mice stored as much food as possible and didn't work as hard to burn off calories.

Allison said obesity is not a new trend.

"Obesity has been around for a long time, but its frequency has increased as of late due to a combination of genetic and environmental influences," Allison said.

Allison focused on the following possible contributors to obesity: maternal age, use of air conditioning, anti-depressant use among women, time spent awake and socioeconomic status.

Allison said it's even possible that thinking makes people fat.

"In recent decades, more and more of us sit at computer screens and physical activity is limited," Allison said.

The second half of Allison's presentation focused on personalized medicine and what people can do to maintain optimal health. Allison hopes that one day he can use mathematic functions to predict obesity in humans.

Kassy Kugler, a first-year student in the clinical community psychology Ph.D program, attended Friday's lecture for "professional growth."

"It is fascinating to see the balance between environmental and genetic factors [related to obesity]," Kugler said. "There's so much we don't know. There's not just one factor."
Beginning today, the Russell House will host events in an attempt to lighten the stress of exam week.

Today, Carolina Productions will host Carolina After Dark from 10 p.m. until 2 a.m. in the Russell House. The lobby of the building will host a relaxation station, complete with massage chairs and beds, and an oxygen bar as well as sandy candy.

In the ballroom, there will be a dome planetarium theatre that organizers have explained as a surround sound/video immersive mind-body experience.

In the theater, fourth-year music major and local musician Haley Dreis will be putting on a concert opened by third year English major, Ned Durrett. Durrett was last year’s winner of USC Idol.

“I'm really excited because I think it’s going to be a wonderful opportunity for me and also for students who have never heard my music but need that study break,” said Dreis, whose band will perform original songs from both of her albums as well as a few covers. On Tuesday, the Russell House Study Union begins. The program, which was started to offer support and space for students to study during exam week, will run through May 3.

Students will be able to benefit from free photocopying services at the Russell House Information Desk, and will be able to use the meeting rooms for studying. Campus Wellness will be relocating its Bean Bag Room into the lobby as well. The Russell House itself, as well as the Horseshoe Deli, will stay open until 3 a.m. from Tuesday to Thursday.

On Wednesday, the Union will host “Russell House Review”. The night will have a free late-night breakfast in the Grand Market Place from 11 p.m. until 1 a.m., pet therapy in the ballroom, ZUMBA stress breakers and free massages.

NIGHT OF FIRE ● Continued from 1

The first dance performance was from USC’s Moksha, one of two exhibition teams along with USC’s Gamecock Bhangra.

“We do fusion dance which means we combine every single style of dance,” said Krisha Desai, a Moksha captain and third-year public relations student. “Every year we like to incorporate something different. We did a circus theme last year.”

This year there was no theme to Moksha’s performance. Opening to Rihanna’s “S&M”, the team of 10 girls and two boys set the tone for the night by incorporating traditional Indian dance with contemporary moves like the “twerk” and h-boy spins.

Throughout the night, to cheers from the audience of “Tar-Heels!” and “Game-Cocks!” that rivaled those at sporting events, teams performed with themes ranging from 007 to Jersey Shore and the Power Rangers. Soundtracks included music from mainstream artists such as Lil’ Wayne, Nicki Minaj, Usher, Chris Brown, Willow Smith and Lil’ Jon.

Comments on this story?
Visit: dailygamecock.com/news
Carolina community can enable change

Sometimes it’s easy to think your voice doesn’t matter. Perhaps there are too many voices already being heard. That’s why I think every voice is important and valuable.

The Daily Gamecock was uncharacteristically bold yesterday when it published the letters to the editor and a Facebook group created. Wright will still get his degree, but every ounce on campus knows more about this issue than the two people who were the first to speak on a press release. And somehow, somehow, somehow, something will be a little more careful next time. This is just one example of how students and administration changed Carolina this summer. Indicators show hundreds are upset that top USC employees were given hefty raises whereas many others were laid off and denied raises. You see the utter hypocrisy.

If you’re an employee, do something about it. Stage a walkout. Don’t get mad, get even. Explain why they’re getting rich while you’re struggling. As we go into this summer season of our lives, let’s apply this. Do something.

As a student, it’s not just you being the victim here. It’s us, all of us. If you’re a patient of Professor A, it may be you that receives a new raise. If you’re a student of Professor B, it may be you that receives an additional burden.

In the media, we can talk about problems all we want. If we draw enough attention towards us, maybe there will be some changes. But when change really happens is when we all stand together and collectively voice a daunting cry that can’t be ignored.

Your voice matters—let only you make it count.

Katie Dravosky
BA English
Class of 2011

Letter to the editor: Senior says goodbye to USC

Dear USC,

This is just one in a long list of goodbyes and thank yous I’ve been giving recently.

As you all know, I started Carolina in 2005. I wasn’t sure I would still be here four years later, but here I am, the last few weeks of the semester don’t afford first-year students to reflect on this year’s accomplishments, progressions and firsts, much less the sense of community and the home they’ve found in part of this campus for four years, and I for one am excited to graduate and leave as a part of this family.

A special shout out goes to my roommate and best friend, Tara. I’ve seen a wonderful amount of achievements and progressions, both academically and athletically, in my time here. I’m incredibly proud to be a Gamecock and will forever be proud to tell people of my alma mater. I fully intend to be an alum with a massive “G” on my chest at any tailgate, and I plan to stay as involved as possible through alumni activities.

I’ve seen a wonderful amount of achievements, progressions, and firsts, both academically and athletically, in my time here. I’m incredibly proud to be a Gamecock and will forever be proud to tell people of my alma mater. I fully intend to be an alum with a massive “G” on my chest at any tailgate, and I plan to stay as involved as possible through alumni activities.

They have their personal beliefs and their parties, but lately, I’m sure you can agree that deciphering the media’s bias is a difficult task. It’s not any easier for politicians. They have their personal beliefs and their parties, but they also have you, their constituents. Like many of our legislators, my political knowledge is specialized. I can only give you my educated opinion on a handful of topics. We have this huge campus next door to the Statehouse. Why aren’t students flooding the steps to make their opinions heard? We all have specialties. Inform your politicians about what you believe is important for our future.

I’ve taken an interest in reforming state policies that have an impact on sexual health statistics in the state. I think that the state spends $1.3 billion a year on unintended pregnancies. South Carolina is also an “HV Hot Spot,” according to legislation that I’ve been reviewing at previous program meetings in recent years since 77 times what we invest. Currently, South Carolina allows schools to teach scientifically sound information as part of their curriculum, to inform legislators that investing in prevention programs can be effective in changing legislation.

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Boultinghouse’s show, highlighting his 2011 collection. Student models took part in designer Brad Boultinghouse’s show, highlighting his 2011 collection.

“Hot Sauce Committee Part Two” — Beattie Boys (May 3)

New York City hip hop trio Beattie Boys are legends in the music scene for their undeniably sick beats since 1979, adding a never-before-heard element to the genre with fun-favorites “Brass Monkey,” “Ch-Check It Out” and “So What I Want.” Their upcoming LP “Hot Sauce Committee Part Two” set to drop in two releases, the first of which is the prequel to the upcoming release, was supposed to drop in December 2009, but was delayed as Adam Yanci (“Ad-By”) went through cancer treatment. According to Move Magazine Ground, this will be the first album that features Mike D, MCA and Ad-Rock, all three members of the hip-hop trio, rapping since 2004’s “To the 5 Boroughs.” The album will hit stores May 3.

“Born This Way” — Lady Gaga (May 23)

Lady Gaga has officially taken over the pop world, standing out as the genre’s most shockingly and fast-paced icon, and winning with outlandish fashion choices and limit- pushing lyrics. “Mother Monster,” a name dubbed by her adoring “little monster” fans, tweeted on New Year’s Eve that highly anticipated album “Born This Way” will debut on May 23. The album already has a few songs going with its first single title track “Born This Way,” released in February, taking on pop and R&B with lyrics that promote acceptance and support of the LGBTQ community. Gaga also wrote two more songs for her album, the second album’s single “Judas” — taking a controversial turn towards the Christian religion — on April 15, two weeks before its slated drop date. With a track list including songs titled “Edge of Glory” and “American Boy,” Gaga wants to continue to build off of Gaga’s beloved absurdity.

“Suck It and See” — Arctic Monkeys (June 8)

Sheffield, England-born indie rock band Arctic Monkeys first rode to fame in the U.S. with 2007’s “Favourite Worst Nightmares,” their dark and dreamy tunes to lead singer Benjamin Gibbard’s vocals. In an interview with Rolling Stone, guitarist Chris Wills promised a “very 70s electronic” sound on “Codes and Keys.” This new sound started to break through on the album’s second single “Somebody,” which renews a touch of 1970s rock in the track listing. The album is set to drop May 11.

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“Codes and Keys” — Death Cab for Cutie (May 31)

Washington-based indie rockers Death Cab for Cutie have made a name for themselves as musicians, playing as a band since 1997. Their most popular tracks, like “I Will Possess Your Heart,” focus on their musical talents, standing out on the radio as a result. Songs like “Crooked Teeth” off 2005’s “ Plans” aim more at an upbeat, “pop-y” tune to lead singer Benjamin Gibbard’s vocals. In an interview with Rolling Stone, guitarist Chris Wills promised a “very 70s electronic” sound on “Codes and Keys.” This new sound started to break through on the album’s second single “Somebody,” which renews a touch of 1970s rock in the track listing. The album is set to drop May 11.

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Jason’s Deli, located in the Vista, recently opened and is quickly causing a great sensation. Celebrating its 15th year, Jason’s deli has locations across the country, and its signature sandwiches and complimentary ice cream have become the talk of the town.

Serving subs, salads, sandwiches and much more, this notorious deli brings a hometown feel to a nationwide restaurant. They offer tons of different types of sandwiches, from subs to croissants, and their prices are typically around $7. The Muffuletta, Jason’s signature sandwich, is a grilled sandwich with layers of ingredients between a loaf of New Orleans muffaletta bread. Every section of the menu opens dozens of options that will keep customers coming back to try more. Each dish is prepared with the option of chips and a pickle, which has become somewhat of their trademark. Their all-you-can-eat salad bar is impressive to say the least and will definitely use up your needs if one of their other few salads just does not cut it (which it unlikely). To complement a salad, or as an entree itself, there is an “Our Lighter Side” section which contains dishes that are less filling, but just as delicious.

Most restaurants make potatoes a side item, but Jason’s Deli has an entire section of the menu devoted to these versatile veggies. Whether you like a “Plain Jane” potato or the “Pollo Mexicanos,” your potato will fill you up and not even break $7.

All of their past dishes can be served as “original” or “lighter,” depending on the serving size the customer requests. This is a convenient amenity that most restaurants do not offer and makes more a more feasible and affordable meal to satisfy a smaller appetite. The Deli also clearly designates their vegetarian items on the menu, one of which is the Portobella Garden Pasta. Other vegetarian items include the Spinach Veggie Wrap and the Garden Pasta. Other vegetarian items are available on any order, and a gluten free menu is available upon inquiry, a gluten free menu is available. Jason’s Deli is also proud that their chicken breasts are “completely free of antibiotics, hormones, and residues.”

Although, Jason’s Deli offers complimentary self-serve ice cream with each purchase, they also present a quality dessert menu that has everything from freshly baked cookies to carrot cake. Their cheesecakes — strawberry, classic, and turtle — are phenomenal and considerably cheap along with the rest of the menu. The new Columbia location of Jason’s Deli is within walking distance of the Greek Village and other campus facilities. This deli is a convenient amenity that most students should get a meal from at least once (which I highly recommend).
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No holes in ‘Portal 2’ gameplay

“Portal 2” NOW AVAILABLE

Developer and Publisher: Valve Software
Platforms: Microsoft Windows, Mac OS X, Xbox 360, Playstation 3
Rating: 10+ for fantasy violence, mild language

Just as its gameplay centered on participating in one outlandish science experiment, the original “Portal” itself was a kind of experiment by its developer, Valve Software. It asked how gamers would respond to a game of a short length that offered an innovative and never-before-seen gameplay concept.

The result was almost unanimously positive, as many people fell in love with the unique puzzle elements and unforgettable sense of humor the game contained. Now, with an intimate knowledge of what made the original game so memorable, Valve has created “Portal 2,” an evolution of the first game in every possible way.

Players resume the role of mute lab rat Chell, who, in the aftermath of the first game, has been in cryogenic stasis for fifty years. After a swift and fantastically witty opening sequence, players are thrust once again back into the familiar space-time manipulation of the first game. From there, and all the way until the lunacy of its finale, “Portal 2” only improves.

Aperture Science isn’t all about portal experimentation however, as “Portal 2” makes abundantly clear. The game introduces a wide variety of new gameplay elements, from antigravity tractor beams to deadly lasers that the game dryly dubs “thermal discouragement beams.” It also features a trio of colorful fluids, which, when painted onto surfaces of the game environment, have a variety of effects ranging from super speed to heightened bounces.

All of these elements layered on top of one another could have proved hugely overwhelming. However, thanks to Valve’s pitch-perfect pacing and organically instructive level design, everything comes together naturally over time. Just as soon as the player feels comfortable with one concept, these individual mechanics culminate in grandiose puzzles where logic is put to the test in the most awe-inspiring manner imaginable.

And so, even though it sounds cliché, it needs to be said: cheating at “Portal 2” is only cheating one’s self. So much of the game’s enjoyment relies on that moment of elation that accompanies discovering each puzzle’s solution. The one real issue with “Portal 2” is that the first playthrough is naturally the most enjoyable, so it is important not to waste it.

But all the incredible puzzles aside, one of the game’s most impressive aspects is that its writers don’t rely on any of the memes and gags that the original “Portal” is remembered for. There is no mention of cake and no euthanizing of a faithful companion cube. Even the passive-aggressive AI GLaDOS, who set so much of the darkly humorous tone of the original game, is outshined by “Portal 2’s” newcomers. The loveably moronic, British-accented robot Wheatley and avant-garde science contractor Cave Johnson are some of the most genuinely hilarious and fantastically voice-acted characters in any video game, ever. Across the entire single-player, they lend a delicate tone of black comedy with surprising heart to the many puzzle rooms of Aperture.

And on top of such a fantastic single-player, “Portal 2” adds a two-player cooperative multiplayer. This is an entirely separate set of puzzles, all of which are based on teamwork. Even as a side mode, it feels created with an unshakable care and attention to detail. “Portal 2” is a masterpiece of video game design.

While other games impress with large scale explosions or graphics engines, “Portal 2” boggles the mind with just how flawlessly it is put together. Gone is the little game that was given the privilege of being bundled with juggernaut franchises “Half Life” and “Team Fortress;” “Portal 2” is in a category all its own. It may not be quite as special to some as the first game, but as its successor, it is more than anyone could have asked for.

Comments on this story? Visit dailygamecock.com/mix

Sequel to popular puzzle game combines witty banter, new mechanics

Aaron Jenkins
MIX@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

“Portal 2” Gameplay in Valve Software’s new release, “Portal 2” centers around the ability to place and move through portals.
Aries: Celebrate. Hear the voice of experience. Discipline is required. Draw upon hidden resources. Others are saying nice things about you. Provide excellent service. Store away extra provisions.

Taurus: Welcome a loved one’s assistance, and pay it forward. It’s a good time to start an adventure you’ve been wanting. The more you learn, the more you value true friends.

Gemini: Continue your studies, and, with a loved one’s encouragement, your career takes off like a rocket. Focus on skills that provide. Wear your power suit, and gather your career. Patience and courtesy are worthwhile practices. What you want is capturing. Say the magic words, and ask for what you want. Collect an old debt. Work starts to pay off. Accept another assignment for a bonus.


Aquarius: Popular information changes your choices. The more precision, the more profit. Your common sense comes in handy. Keep the energy flowing, and practice steadiness. Money comes in.

Sagittarius: Popular information changes your choices. The more precision, the more profit. Your common sense comes in handy. Keep the energy flowing, and practice steadiness. Money comes in.

Leaves: Communication is key and so is intuition. Keep working towards your goals, even if at times it feels like there’s no progress. Don’t give up. Do what’s required.

Cancer: Be thrifty and patient, and your respectful past treatment of others earns you kudos now. Keep furthering your education, no matter your age. Invite among friends for opportunities.

Virgo: Rarerearrange things for greater efficiency. Write in your journal. Stay on track with the help of a friend. Stand up for what you know is right. Shift expectations.

Libra: Your charm is captivating. Say the magic words, and ask for what you want. Collect an old debt. Work starts to pay off. Accept another assignment for a bonus.

Capricorn: Break through the myths of the “staring artist.” You can be creative and make money at the same time. Invest in love. Use your imagination. Study what you want. Collect an old debt. Work starts to pay off. Accept another assignment for a bonus.

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USC first baseman Christian Walker had a torrid weekend at the plate, reaching base in nine of 10 plate appearances.

USC perseveres for road series win

Carolina takes two of three games in Starkville against Mississippi State despite loss of Bradley, Marzilli

Paulina Berkwich

The No. 2 Gamecocks won their sixth consecutive conference series this weekend, taking their rubber game against the Mississippi State Bulldogs by a score of 13-4 on Sunday afternoon in Starkville, Miss. South Carolina relied on dominant offense to overpower MSU and maintain its spot atop the SEC East. The Gamecocks are locked in a three-way tie with Florida and LSU.

USC broke the game open with four runs in the fourth inning and five runs in the fifth to take an 11-3 lead. The Gamecocks collected 18 hits on the day, including three from freshman DeSean Anderson. Anderson, who was starting his first game as a Gamecock, came out of the lineup by Jake Williams, who returned this weekend after a brief suspension and converted pitcher Steven Neff.

"I’m very proud of our team," said USC coach Ray Tanner in a release. "Of all the games I have been involved in, this game means a lot to me, by the way we were able to finish the game." In Saturday’s 5-3 loss, center fielder Jackie Bradley Jr. left the game with an injury to his left wrist. Bradley, who recently recovered from a back injury, was evaluated by USC team doctors and will be ready to face Florida in tourney.

Carolina has gone to the NCAAs for 16 straight seasons. It’s now wait-and-see for longtime coach Arlo Walker, who was named one of the top teams in the SEC before the 2011 NCAA Tournament.

Neither of the USC players who were available, Christian Walker had a stellar series at the plate, reaching base nine times in 10 appearances through the first two games of the series. He added four more hits, including his eighth home run of the year, in Sunday’s rout.

The Gamecocks got off to a strong start in the series with an 8-2 victory Friday night. Junior Michael Roth provided a quality start for his first win of the year, surrendering just one earned run and three hits in 6.1 innings of work. John Taylor added 2.1 scoreless innings in relief.

USC didn’t take long to get on the board, scoring in the first on an RBI double by senior Adrain Morales and adding two more in the second on a double by Robert Bacey. Carolina extended its lead with two runs in the fourth, the first in the sixth, and a final run in the ninth.

The second game of the series was a tough one for the Gamecocks, who fell behind in the third inning on a two-out, two-run double by senior catcher C.J. Hinojosa. USC came back to score three in the fourth inning. Walker scored an unearned run on a fielding error, and Beary added a two-single to left to give the Gamecocks a temporary advantage.

The Gamecocks had the upper hand on Saturday when a base hit, a walk and a wild pitch gave them runners on second and third with one out. But Brady Thomas and Morales failed to deliver a big hit, striking out to end the inning when a base hit, a walk and a wild pitch gave them runners on second and third with one out. But Brady Thomas and Morales failed to deliver a big hit. USC went after it, as the Gamecocks followed up with a two-run single.

NOTES

1. The Gamecocks did not have any of their opening day starters in the lineup. The Gamecocks followed up with a two-run single.

2. USC associate head coach Katrina Peterson in a release. "Florida is one of the top teams in the country and they played better than us today and I feel bad for our team." He congratulates them.

3. Florida came a day after its marathon 11-hour weather delay that saw the Gamecocks lose the first game of the series. USC shortstop Stojilko Stojil has been the hero for USC against the Rebels. Stojil faced behind early in his match against Connor Vogel by losing the first set 6-1. The next set took to be ending in the same fashion, with Vogel leading 6-1 and needing only one point to win. Stojil KO was to come back and force a deciding third set.

"I felt very confident when the whole team started cheering for me," Stojil said. "It’s a different feeling when it’s 6-1. I feel better on the court and I started hitting well.

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For new Vandy coach, job an opportunity

Franklin adament in belief he can turn around program

James Roth

Most view the head coaching position at Vanderbilt, the perennial doormat of the Southeastern Conference in football, as a dead end.

James Franklin is not one of those people. That’s why he learned the offensive coordinator is now in Nashville and preparing to start his first season at the helm for the Commodores.

"To me, it’s an opportunity. It’s a challenge," said Franklin last week on an SEC teleconference. "It’s like anything else in life. It’s how you look at it, how you perceive the situation.

Vandy isn’t far removed from one of the greatest season in school history — a 7-6 campaign in 2008, which culminated with a 16-14 win over Boston College in the Music City Bowl, the school’s first postseason appearance since 1982 and the first bowl win since the 1970 Gator Bowl.

However, the ‘Dores followed 2008 by going winless in the SEC in 2009. Then, the sudden retirement of Bobby Johnson prior to the 2010 season put the program in a state of flux. VU finished 1-10 overall and 1-7 in the conference

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Women’s tennis fails to Florida in tourney

Gamecocks now must wait to learn NCAA fate

Bradley George

It’s now wait-and-see time for the USC women’s tennis team.

The No. 16 Gamecocks fell in the second round of the SEC Tournament in Knoxville, Tenn., losing to No. 2 Florida 4-0. The squad is now idle until May 3 when the 2011 NCAA Tournament field will be announced. If USC is invited, which is expected, it will be the team’s 17th consecutive bid to the NCAA Tournament.

Additionally, outfi ghter Evan Marzilli missed Sunday’s game with an unspecified medical condition. USC said HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996) laws prevent it from revealing further details, other than that Marzilli will be evaluated by team physicians Monday and his ailment is not expected to be a long-term issue. USC coach Richard Pearce said Marzilli was injured before Sunday’s game against Tennessee and Saturday’s game. He has yet to have an MRI.

Carolina’s loss came two days after its marathon 11-hour weather delay that saw the Gamecocks lose the first game of the series. USC shortstop Stojilko Stojil has been the hero for USC against the Rebels. Stojil faced behind early in his match against Connor Vogel by losing the first set 6-1. The next set took to be ending in the same fashion, with Vogel leading 6-1 and needing only one point to win.

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Sarratt lifts Gamecocks to extra-inning triumph

Freshman earns win in circle, delivers decisive hit

Reddy Gray  rgray@dailygamecock.com

The USC softball team salvaged a weekend series with Kentucky thanks to a 6-5 extra-inning win Sunday at Beckham Field.

After falling to the Wildcats 5-3 in each of the first two games, the Gamecocks were able to close the series with an eighth inning win, their first in four extra inning games this season.

USC was led at both the plate and in the circle by star freshman Julie Sarratt. Sarratt (8-7) earned the win, their first in four extra inning games this season.

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Sarratt's counterpart, freshman Lauren Cambou, was the hard-luck loser. Cambou also threw all eight innings, falling to 6-7 with the decision.

After getting off to a quick start in the first inning with a Samie Garcia double for a run, an fourth-inning Evan Childs home run put the Gamecocks up 3-2. For a while, that looked like it would be enough for USC to hold on. However, UK's Samantha DeMartine had other plans. DeMartine, who became just the fifth player in Kentucky history to hit two home runs in one game in the second game of Saturday's doubleheader, once again came up with the clutch hit. Garcia hit a two-run walkoff RBI single in the bottom of the eighth that ended the game.

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Lauren Lackey (above) and the Gamecocks managed to beat UK in eight innings Sunday.

First-year Florida coach Will Muschamp.

TENNIS | From 14

From those Storrie had all the momentum, as she swept Vogel 6-0 to clinch the match for USCF. The victory served as retribution for the Gamecocks, who had lost to Ole Miss earlier in the regular season. USC had also previously lost to Florida, so it hoped it could once again have a fortune-reversing outing. However, it did not turn out that way, as USC closed its regular season at 13-11.

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FRANKLIN & Continued from 14

under interim coach and Pageland, S.C., native Robbie Caldwell, whose contract was not renewed after the season.

Vanderbilt thought it had an agreement with Auburn offensive coordinator Geo Malzahn to become the new head coach, but Malzahn took more money to stay at Auburn. The job then fell to Franklin, who seized it along with the tremendous challenges that came with it.

“The way myself, my staff and this program looks at it, we have a chance to do something really special and be a part of turning a football program around and turning a university’s football history around,” Franklin said. “This year is going to be one that I think kind of takes that first step in that direction.”

With a lack of depth at almost every position and a challenging schedule, chances are that first step will not be accompanied by many wins. However, Franklin, the self-titled “CEO of Vanderbilt ball,” said that doesn’t worry him.

“I’m not really a results-oriented guy. I’m a process-oriented guy,” Franklin said. “So what we focus on here at Vanderbilt is we wake up every single morning and we attack the day and we just try to be the host we possibly can be academically, athletically, socially, spiritually — the whole package. I feel like if you do that, the rest will take care of itself.”

Gators looking for leaders: The Florida program is in a state of transition, and it is trying to develop leaders to help get it through the rough years ahead.

“I still think that's something we're sort of trying to identify,” said first-year coach Will Muschamp, who will have the most talented team he's had in the weight room this summer with strength coach Mickey Marotti in charge.

Muschamp said UF must do all it can to create leaders, referencing what the United States Army does in building leaders at West Point. Muschamp said his program won't operate like the Army, but it must develop it.

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Tennessee's roster this season will be comprised of freshmen and sophomores.

TENNIS | From 14

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