Semester in Review

Friday, April 24, 2015
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Kamila Melko, Brittany Wilt, Hannah Cleaveland, Lauren Shirley, Cody Scoggins
Pete Davidson, the youngest featured player on “Saturday Night Live,” brought his raunchy, self-admittedly immature comedy stylings to the Russell House Ballroom on April 16 courtesy of Carolina Productions.

The Daily Gamecock: What got you started in stand-up comedy?

Pete Davidson: In high school, I had, like, one friend and we didn’t get invited to parties, so we just went to comedy clubs to hang out and watch. He made me try it. My mom took me to the clubs for the first two years, which was pretty embarrassing.

DG: How did you get started on SNL?

PD: I got really, really lucky. Amy Schumer shot a movie last summer with Bill Hader, and she gave me this really small part where I got to improv with the crew. Bill and I hit it off a little bit, and he called me and recommended me to SNL and I was like, “What, this is crazy!” Then I auditioned again and it went … OK. I got a call a month later that said, “Hey, you’re a cast member,” and I couldn’t believe it. I still can’t believe it.
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Sunghee Kwon, the 46-year-old ex-wife of USC professor Raja Fayad, was identified as the shooter in the murder-suicide by Richland County Coroner Gary Watts. Watts said Kwon shot Fayad in the upper body several times before shooting herself in the abdomen and killing herself on Feb 5.

Both Kwon and Fayad died at the scene.

Kwon and Fayad had been married until a few years ago and continued to have a relationship and share a home after they divorced. Until recently, the couple was still living together.

USC President Harris Pastides sent an email to members of USC’s community in regards to the murder-suicide.

“The healing process has begun at the University of South Carolina, even as our community continues to grieve,” he wrote.

Pastides thanked students, parents, alumni, presidents of other universities and all others who expressed their sympathy, specifically Gov. Nikki Haley and Mayor Steve Benjamin for their support.

“We now know the tragedy resulted from a domestic dispute,” Pastides wrote. “Domestic violence is, of course, a plague on our society and has shaken our university family yet again this year.”

Pastides added that the university will work to increase awareness and action to combat domestic violence.
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24
2015

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For more information or assistance, visit www.cp.sc.edu or call (803) 777 - 3950.
This event is subject to change. Paid for by Campus Activity Fees.
Spurrier adds Hoke to staff

Brendan Doherty
@BRENNAN_DOHERTY

Gamecock head coach Steve Spurrier formally introduced Jon Hoke as one of South Carolina’s new codefensive coordinators at a press conference on Feb. 9.

Spurrier also noted Lorenzo Ward, the Gamecocks’ defensive coordinator since 2009, will also work under the same title as Hoke.

Hoke served as Spurrier’s defensive coordinator at Florida from 1999 to 2001.

As everyone knows, we had a difficult year on defense and we needed to instill a little something different and that’s my job as the head coach to do something different and I think we’ve added, hopefully, something that will really help us.”

Hoke hasn’t coached in the college ranks in over 14 years.

He has spent the past six seasons as the defensive backs coach for the Chicago Bears.

Hoke previously held the same position with the Houston Texans.
Repticon, a national reptile and exotic animal expo that makes stops through 23 different states, set up shop at Jamil Temple in Columbia in early February. Repticon brings together a wide range of animal experts and breeders, while simultaneously serving as a platform to buy, sell and trade animals, supplies, merchandise and more.

With over 60 vendors booked over the course of two days, every person at Repticon had a story to tell.

After 10 years, Richard Roman of R2Exotics is familiar with the ins and outs of the reptile business — his key to staying afloat is keeping a wide variety.

“We try to be diversified,” Roman said. “Because when the ball python market is bad like it is right now, the bearded dragon or the spider market is better.”

A life in the reptile business isn’t for everyone, but those who get into it stay put, and vendors like Roman rely on their families for support. Several vendors were married to their business partners or had their children handling the reptiles.

Rave of Thrones conquers the Vista

Lois Carlisle @LOISCARLIE

It’s not common to cosplay “Game of Thrones” at a rave, but on Feb. 12 at Social Bar and Lounge, it was completely acceptable.

Kristian Nairn, most popularly known as Hodor from the HBO series “Game of Thrones,” took over Social Bar and Lounge in the Vista that Thursday night and kept the party going until 2 a.m.

At 12:30 a.m. Nairn was escorted to the stage, and it was clear he was having just as much fun as everyone else in the room.

“This is my first time in Columbia,” he said into the microphone. “But this is f---ing awesome!”

According to Nairn, college students are the best crowds to DJ for, and that’s exactly what brought him to Columbia.

“College crowds are my favorite crowds, in the U.K. and the U.S. They’re always so full of energy,” Nairn said. “Everybody’s just together, having a good time.”

The crowd was diverse at Social — it’s not everyday that you find cosplayers dancing alongside ravers. With some fans wearing fur capes and other “Game of Thrones” inspired dress, there were just as many wearing classic rave wear.

Throughout the hour and a half that Nairn mixed tunes on stage, he played a lot of his original songs to a personalized light show. As you might expect, he even remixed the “Game of Thrones” theme, and the crowd went wild.

With cosplayers, rave-enthusiasts, closeted Game of Thrones die-hards, one 6-foot-10 DJ and some guy with a handlebar mustache — there was nothing quite like it in all the Seven Kingdoms.

Erika Ryan @RIKA_RYAN

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Senior pitcher Surratt prepares to take on life after softball

Redshirt senior pitcher Julie Surratt could strike you out and then do your taxes. And she could do them both before breakfast, too.

Surratt, a CPA-in-training in the mornings and a standout on South Carolina’s softball team in the afternoons and evenings, has a taxing schedule carved out in her final season as a student-athlete.

But Surratt said she knows her time as a competitive softball player is limited. In fact, this upcoming season will be her last, save for the possibility of playing for a company slow-pitch softball team in the future.

The 2015 season marks the final year of eligibility for Surratt, who arrived on campus nearly five years ago.

Surratt tossed a no-hitter in her first appearance as a freshman for the Gamecocks in 2010, and also knocked in a run while going 2-for-4 in her debut.

She finished her freshman campaign with a 3.38 ERA while accumulating an 8-8 record.

However, after the season, Surratt was forced to undergo Tommy John surgery, which effectively ended her sophomore year before it even started.

But being forced to sit out a year turned out to be a blessing in disguise for the Gaffney, South Carolina native.

The injury not only taught her lessons in rehabilitation, but lessons in overcoming mental adversity, too. But being forced to sit out a year turned out to be a blessing in disguise for the Gaffney, South Carolina native.
President Barack Obama knew it had been a while since he last visited South Carolina. And South Carolina knew it, too — hours before the motorcade pulled onto Benedict College’s campus on March 6, the line of people snaked down the sidewalk and around the building.

He told the crowd he would have come back sooner were it not for a few things on his schedule, since his only other visit in 2008 when he won the democratic primary.

But that didn’t mean South Carolina wasn’t important to him.

“Were it not for the Palmetto State,” he said, “I might not be president.”

In a town hall question-and-answer session, Obama entertained queries about college tuition, his “My Brother’s Keeper” initiative, his XL pipeline veto and the ongoing issues in Ferguson, Missouri.

But almost every question turned back to young people, their potential and their responsibility.

“I’ll be gone when the worst of this hits,” he told the crowd after he urged students to think about climate change as something that affects them and not “science fiction.”

By the time 11:50 p.m. rolled around after Dance Marathon’s main event on , dancers had been standing for 14 hours and their feet were aching, but the smiles around the gym weren’t going anywhere.

The anticipation mounted even further as the cards were laid out on the stage, the very cards that would reveal that USCDM raised a record-breaking $501,528.

“We barely broke [$500,000],” Alli Held, USCDM finance committee director, said. “We were talking about it, and we know that’s because we pushed our participants and they pushed themselves so hard until the last minute and you know, it’s those last minute donations, in the last 10 minutes that pushed us over.”

Held admitted she was a little nervous about making it all the way to their goal. Anyone would be with a public goal, she said, and this was the first year USCDM worked toward a set amount.

And as USCDM 2015 drew to a close, it was a time for reflection. Leslie Knight, the Executive Director of USCDM, hopes to come back to see the event creating an even bigger buzz in the future.

“Public goals are very scary — we learned that this year,” she said. “But I’m confident. I would love to see them blow what we just did out of the water.”
When the final buzzer sounded on March 29, the South Carolina players and coaches jumped and hugged each other, happy as ever.

Emotions ran high that Sunday afternoon and for a good reason. Top-seeded South Carolina defeated second-seeded Florida State 80-74 in the Elite Eight, clinching a spot in the Final Four for the first time in school history.

The Gamecocks have junior shooting guard Tiffany Mitchell to thank for that. When the game was on the line, Mitchell, whom head coach Dawn Staley has called “South Carolina’s Superwoman,” took over.

Mitchell lived up to that role, scoring a season-high 21 points.

With the Gamecocks and Florida State knotted up in the final few minutes, it was Mitchell who scored the next seven points for South Carolina. Her dagger of a three-pointer with just over one minute remaining put the Gamecocks ahead by five points and South Carolina would hold on from that point on.

“[Mitchell] hit big buckets for us,” Staley said. “I had no doubt where the ball was going even though Alaina Coates was having a pretty good second half. But Tiffany Mitchell is the person we want. We want the ball in her hands when we need a basket.”
Toxic levels of alcohol contributed to first-year business student Charles Terreni Jr.’s death, according to Richland County Coroner Gary Watts.

Watts said 18-year-old Terreni had a blood alcohol level of 0.375 at the time of his death in March, more than triple the legal driving limit, which is .08.

Terreni was found dead in a Lee Street house on Wednesday, March 18, according to Watts. An autopsy showed no signs of traumatic injury.

Watts said in a press release that Terreni’s death was “tragic” and “totally preventable.”

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

Terreni lived on campus and was a member of the USC chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha.

The fraternity’s international headquarters said in a release that the USC chapter ceased operations upon Terreni’s death and is cooperating with Columbia Police and Richland County Coroner investigations. The chapter was also put under administrative suspension by the university.

USC President Harris Pastides said in an email on March 19 that he was “deeply concerned by such difficult news and by the tremendous sense of sadness that it brings to our campus.”
Mouths water at bacon festival

The first-ever touring America Loves Bacon festival came to Columbia this year to remind us how much South Carolina loves bacon.

It took place in Carolina Walk Park and lasted all afternoon on March 28. Visitors each received five sampling tickets with admission to the festival to taste food like ghost pepper bacon, root beer bacon and bacon hoagies.

The festival brought live music from bands like The Cheaters and Four 14 and performances from comedians like John Gibson and John-Michael Bond. There were cooking demonstrations and an endless amount of novelty food items.

People of all ages were encouraged to come out to enjoy live entertainment and much more. Adults could enjoy taste testing and a Bacon Off featuring chefs competing in appetizer, entrée, and dessert categories for cash prizes. There was even a bacon eating festival in which five people competed to see who could eat a pound of bacon in the smallest amount of time.

There was an area for children to enjoy with interactive stations including balloon twists, children's eating contest, face painting and games.

Although the bacon festival had a tremendous turn out, many participating chefs thought the bacon craze is just a phase, but were satisfied by the awesome trend.
Racist screenshot circulates campus, student suspended

Staff Reports
@THEGAMECOCK

USC suspended a student and began a code of conduct investigation after a screenshot of a Snapchat depicting a list of complaints about USC including a racial slur began circulating on Twitter on April 3.

A statement from USC President Harris Pastides later that evening said USC’s Board of Trustees endorsed the “prompt course of action” to suspend the student and conduct the investigation.

“Today, the unfortunate and disappointing act of a student in a study room has challenged the Carolina community to reflect on our values and tell the world what we believe,” Pastides said in the statement.

After the incident received coverage from several national media outlets, South Carolina NAACP President Lonnie Randolph Jr. said, “It is disappointing but no longer shocking to see a college student following what appears to be a growing trend in our state and nation.”

“We once again face a stark reality: even at our highest points as a society there are those among us — including the young — who wish they were still in Dixie,” Randolph said.

The image showed a white female student writing on a whiteboard. The heading was “Reasons why USC Wi-Fi blows” and listed several reasons underneath, the first of which was a racial slur.

The reasons that followed were incompetent professors, ratchets, overpopulated campus and parking.

A Twitter user identified the student in the photo and tagged her username.

The woman said it was a misunderstanding.

She has since changed her Twitter handle several times and protected the account.
Indie Grits, Columbia’s independent film festival, came back for round nine, but with a few new additions — this was the first year Indie Grits embodied a theme and showcased visual art installations.

The theme, “Future Perfect,” commemorated the 150th anniversary of the burning of Columbia.

Many films and art installations followed this theme using the city of Columbia as a basis, but many have interpreted the theme more conceptually.

Although, films were the main attraction, there were a number of other events such as art showcases, raunchy puppet shows and musical acts.

This year, there were many obscure, creative works that experimented with new mediums, and 17 artists from all around the southeast presented sculptures, paintings and other art installations.

Indie Grits once again encouraged originality and attracted unusual artworks and film as well as unconventional audiences. Indie Grits prides itself on its organic essence and the space it creates for unexpected experiences.

Indie Grits is popular for more reasons than just the entertainment it provides. Indie Grits connects the community by giving people a reason to come together.

Columbia can expect to see Indie Grits return to town next year, probably more bizarre than ever before.

After all, Indie Grits is securing its spot as a Columbia tradition.
What a ride.
The No. 3 South Carolina Equestrian team trotted past the competition in Waco, Texas on April 18 and won its third ever NCEA National Championship by pulling off an upset over No. 1 Georgia Saturday evening, winning 10-6 over the Bulldogs.

The victory gave the Gamecocks their first title since 2007, and South Carolina head coach Boo Major has now coached three different teams to a championship in her 17-year tenure as head coach.

Starting off that Saturday bright and early, South Carolina knocked off home favorite Baylor in the semifinals, beating the Bears 10-6 to advance to the championship.

Heading into that Saturday’s season finale, the Gamecocks knew they would have their hands full

they were going up against a Georgia team that had already beaten South Carolina once and the Bulldogs won the SEC Championship just a few weeks back.

Nonetheless, South Carolina came out on top when it mattered most and ended the season with one of the biggest wins in program history.
Riff Raff show worth waiting for

From the moment Music Farm’s doors opened on Jan. 22, the anticipation was thick. The audience got progressively more anxious as DJ after DJ took the stage that night, waiting for Riff Raff to start his performance. When JODY HiGHROLLER himself stepped onto the stage, the atmosphere was out of control — drunk, sweaty, screaming fans were ready to throw themselves on the stage to get closer to the one-of-a-kind performer.

Regardless of Riff Raff’s abilities as a rapper, he is unquestionably a talented performer. Listeners were eager to dance the night away in the company of this quickly growing star. His attitude towards his fans was full of nothing but love.

JODY HiGHROLLER, as he calls himself on Twitter, is an entertainer to say the least. Even photographs don’t do his bizarre style justice. Wearing sagging shorts emblazoned with the phrase “Flight Club,” Raff swaggered on stage in a cutoff T-shirt, glorifying his countless tattoos.

Strangest of all was his signature two-braid hairstyle — fans who arrived early enough and were willing to pay a pretty penny could get their own locks twisted by Riff Raff’s personal stylist.

The stage was littered with various entourage members, including several who just swayed slightly to the music and held styrofoam cups of mystery liquid. The “don’t care” attitude of all the performers, Riff Raff included, added substantially to the already-high levels of absurdity and sketchiness.

Overall, the show was not an experience to be missed. Raff played several hits off his album “Neon Icon” album, including “Tip Toe Wing in My Jawwdin,” all of which have ridiculous and often profane lyrics, precisely why they got listeners so hyped up.
LAST DAY TO CHECK IN YOUR RENTAL TEXTBOOKS
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6