Open source textbooks may mean lower costs

Brandon Waltz
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Open source textbooks, free digital textbooks for professors to use in their courses, are one thing student senators can agree on.

Student Body President Lindsay Richardson has looked into using OpenStax College as a provider. OpenStax is a nonprofit organization that began as an initiative of Rice University that provides college textbooks in subjects such as chemistry, economics, statistics and more.

“Our free textbooks are developed and peer-reviewed by educators to ensure they are readable, accurate and meet the scope and sequence requirements of your course,” according to the OpenStax website. “Through our partnerships with libraries and foundations committed to reducing costs for students, OpenStax College is working to improve access to higher education for all.”

Richardson said he hopes more professors will consider open source textbooks as an option for their students to reduce their overall costs.

“It would allow students to be able to use these resources at a free cost to them online. If they want a print copy they can also get a print copy at cost, which is about 200 percent below the normal textbook price,” Richardson said.

Three sociology professors already use open source textbooks. The students in these classes do not have to pay any money for the textbook.
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Woman embezzles more than $1 million

A federal trial over embezzled funds began on Wednesday, The State reported. Benita Dinkins-Robinson, the director of a Lee County charter school, faces two counts of embezzlement, totaling upward of $1 million of federal funds. She siphoned the money into her own account through four different shell companies. The charter school qualified for Title I funding and received money from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Education for food and education purposes. Dinkins-Robinson was supposed to be using the money toward meals for the students, education and their general benefit. Dinkins-Robinson used the money to pay for vacations, shopping sprees and other purchases. — Madeleine Collins, Assistant News Editor

Health care member information hacked

The personal information of former and current participants of a state health plan may have been stolen after the company was hacked, The State reported. Members of Blue Choice Health Plan FMO, a BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina that offers health plans to state employees, are said to be affected. Anthem, a company that helps South Carolina’s BlueCross process health care claims, was targeted by the hackers, who took the members’ names, birthdays, Social Security numbers, addresses, email addresses and employment information. The data breach affected BlueCross members in other states including California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Virginia and Wisconsin. Affected customers will receive letters notifying them, and Anthem said the incident is still under investigation. — Madeleine Collins, Assistant News Editor

Vice Principal released on $100,000 bond after arrested for having sex with student

An assistant principle in Goose Creek, South Carolina was released on a $100,000 bond after he was charged with having sexual relationship with a student, The State reported. Paul Jette Herman, the 36-year-old assistant principal of Goose Creek High School, was arrested Tuesday and charged with sexual battery with a student without force or coercion. The girl’s mother discovered the relationship when she saw messages on her daughter’s phone, and her daughter told her about the relationship last weekend. Police said based on the text messages, the relationship had been going on since December. Herman was placed on administrative leave by the Berkeley County School District. — Madeleine Collins, Assistant News Editor

CORRECTIONS
If you find an error in today’s edition of The Daily Gamecock, let us know about it. Email editor@dailygamecock.com and we will print the correction in our next issue.
looking forward to working with one another and eager to get started.

Their first step?

“We get to work,” Kaufman said.

“We're the student voice for the administration — that’s our job. That’s why we're elected.”

The voting goal for the initial election was 5,000 votes, but the voter turnout was just over 1,000. The turnout for the runoff election was 7,365 votes.

“The turnout came out great and that's exactly what we needed,” Samples said. “The student body has officially spoken and they did it with passion.”

Student Body Vice President Donnie Iorio will begin transitioning Goble, Kaufman and Ian Shannon — who was elected in last week’s elections — into their positions Thursday.

“It was a great election, great fight, great battle,” Student Body President Lindsay Richardson said. “I’m excited for the new team, and we’re ready to start the transition and ready to pass off the baton.”
The Trojan Women’ immersive, brutal production

Burt is ‘Back’-arach at USC

Burt Bacharach, writer of over 60 top-40 hits, will hold a Q&A and short performance. Director Kelsea Woods put what she learned in a London immersive theater company to work in “The Trojan Women,” including the audience in a physical, emotional play.

“Casino Royale.”

DeWitt on drumming with Hootie, Blue Dogs

Most hands have one drummer but not all drummers have one hand. Such is the case of Parker DeWitt, a contracting drummer and percussionist in such notable bands as Hootie and the Blowfish and The Revivalists. Hootie can’t be DeWitt’s only tie to South Carolina. Born and raised in Florence, South Carolina, he said the South has shaped him when it comes to music. He’s also very fond of Athens, Georgia, where his favorite band since he was 12 years old, Widespread Panic, was born. Now, DeWitt is busy touring with the Blue Dogs, who will be playing at Music Farm Columbia this Saturday at 8 p.m.

DeWitt’s father introduced him to what he calls “cool older bands” like Steely Dan and the BeeGees. DeWitt said it was “real fortunate for me to get into music at a young age,” even if he didn’t “realize it at the time.”

DeWitt first started playing in various garage bands in high school that mainly covered bands in high school that mainly covered The Doors, who will be playing at Music Farm Columbia this Saturday at 8 p.m. DeWitt’s style has blended and evolved over the years — it was initially bluegrass and then into jam bands, but DeWitt more recently has been delving into genres like Caribbean, funk and jazz.

In high school and at the beginning of his college career, DeWitt began touring with Machine Funk, one of the most well-known Widespread

Want to go?

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"The Trojan Women" focuses on the resiliency of women undergoing extreme trauma and the ravages of war.

Woods said, “Really, it’s a celebration about being human.”

For cast members and the director alike, communicating the travesties and war crimes committed against women were extremely important to the creative process. The cast tried to replicate the specific emotion of being “left” and not knowing what to expect next. The cast and crew also looked to women in today’s Syria as current models of affected women to discuss the physical and emotional trauma rape brings. They came up with real world situations and analyzed what could actually happen to them in these given circumstances.

“This play is all about the enemy — this play is all about the Trojans who were the enemy at the time, so think about the people who are supposedly our enemies in war,” Boller said.

“Remember that they’re humans and innocent people are going to suffer from your political agenda.”

DeWitt works with a wide range of bands as a contracting drummer, leading him to different genres.

Panic tribute bands in the country. From there, DeWitt got an unorthodox big break.

“I don’t know if you’re familiar with the Speed Channel, but they were holding this event called ‘Bands of NASCAR’ where we played on the racetracks and toured around, he said. “It still gets me work today.”

Shortly thereafter, he went back to school in 2013 in New York City, where he received a degree in music and a teaching certificate at the Collective School of Music.

DeWitt then started working with the Blue Dogs, an Americana band from his hometown, Florence.

“They hit me up — and I’ve been recording with them for the past year in Charleston,” he said.

Of course, being a contracting musician is thrilling and exciting, but there are some cons to working as an individual artist, DeWitt said. You aren’t tied down to any group in particular, but you can’t choose what you want to play and you have to learn music on the fly — literally.

“Sometimes you have to learn it on the plane ride flying in,” he said.

DeWitt has worked with many bands, and there are still some percussionists he would still love to collaborate with, like James McMurtry — he would “love to just sit down and work with him in songwriting” — and Jason Isbell.
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MEN’S BASKETBALL
In a matter of months, the U.S. Supreme Court may make same-sex marriage legal in every state. But as social conservatives lose ground in courts, their real-state legislators and governor’s mansions are increasingly cracking down on the LGBT community in every way they can.

Yann Brownback, the governor of Kansas, recentlyReadWrite a new executive order that prevents state employees from being fired for their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Arkansas went a step farther and banned any local government in the state from protecting LGBT citizens from discrimination in the workplace. Florida is considering a bill that would formally define gender as binary and, in the process, dramatically shift transgender protections within the state by denying the existence of anything needing protection.

Arizona passed the bill that nearly passed needing protection. As a part of an anti-LGBT campaign, the bill would have denied anyone who breaches ethical codes.

Those names do not belong on our masthead. We must confess our pleasure at the result of the November 2014 election. We hold all members of our staff to the same standards, regardless of title. Verifiable statements of fact must include their full name, position and department. Community members must include their full name, major and year. Faculty and staff must include their full name, major and year.

The likelihood of actually being fired for being gay is also uncertain. Most major businesses wouldn’t shudder at the risk of controversy and boycotts and are even displaying an increasing willingness to show gay couples a good time in high-profile ad campaigns. A few, such as Hobby Lobby and Chick-fil-A, have decided to turn social conservatism into a marketing strategy, but for the most part, formal employment discrimination would be limited to small businesses and the most tea-party-local and state governments.

Even so, that’s enough to make any party in the state limits. Some Republicans have condemned Gov. Brownback’s actions, a Republican governor voted for ENDA in the Senate. Half of likely Republican primary voters hold neutral or worse views of a hypothetical candidate against gay marriage. But at the same time, none of their major 2016 candidates — not even the relatively libertarian Rand Paul — publicly support gay marriage.

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But as the VP race, we hope the soap opera is over. The drama of election violations, a holy of write-in candidates from left field and the rowdy emotions made for a long election season for all of us.

—— Hannah Jeffrey, Editor-in-Chief
This is a page from The Daily Gamecock, containing various sections. The page includes an employment offer, a horoscope section, a crossword puzzle, and a Sudoku puzzle. The employment section mentions a need for Swim Instructors. The horoscope section features signs Aries through Pisces, with advice for each. The crossword puzzle is titled “Crossword” and is Solve by Tuesday, February 26, 2013. The Sudoku puzzle is labeled “Sudoku” and is Solve by Tuesday, February 26, 2013.
South Carolina junior outfielder Alaynie Page is hitting .471 with six home runs and 22 RBIs through 15 games in the 2015 season.

Page began her journey to South Carolina started years ago in high school. A highly touted prospect from Boiling Springs High School, Page originally committed to the Gamecocks when former head coach Joyce Compton was still in charge. But when Compton announced her retirement, Page was unsure of whether committing to South Carolina was the right move. Masters said. “She’s very kind, she’s entertaining, and I think her personality is the same on the field and off the field.”

South Carolina junior outfielder Alaynie Page is hitting .471 with six home runs and 22 RBIs through 15 games in the 2015 season.

Page became more aggressive with the bat in hand. “She’s staying aggressive,” Smith said. “Obviously, it’s working.”

Soon after, Page knew she wanted to spend her college career with this coach. “It was a good phone call,” Page added. As far as what she wants to achieve goes, Page said her priorities are centered around her own and her team’s success.

Page’s goal is to help the player she knows she can be, but she also wants to show that it’s time for Gamecock outfielder Lauren Masters said. “She’s very outgoing. We’ve gotten really close this past year, and she’s someone I can say will be a best friend forever.”

Smith described Page’s offensive demeanor as very similar to what people see on the field. “She’s loud,” redshirt sophomore infielder Lauren Masters said. “She’s very outgoing. We’ve gotten really close this past year, and she’s someone I can say will be a best friend forever.”

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The last time South Carolina senior Kyle Koch has a 17-7 singles record this season for the Gamecocks.

Both tennis teams begin SEC play

The Daily Gamecock

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Brennen Cowherd
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

When the final buzzer sounded and No. 2 South Carolina defeated No. 6 Tennessee, the magnitude and importance of the win for the Gamecocks was clearly evident by the way teammates embraced and congratulated each other on the court. It was a safe to say head coach Down Staley's team enjoyed beating the Lady Vols for just the third time ever.

Now the past tense: ‘enjoyed.’

As usual as Monday night’s win was for South Carolina (26-1, 14-0 SEC), rules are rules, and Staley has one regarding wins: enjoy them ‘enjoyed.’

With only two regular season games remaining, South Carolina still has a lot of work to get done before the SEC tournament begins next week in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

A win against Mississippi State or No. 15 Kentucky next Sunday would clinch the No. 1 seed in the SEC tournament for the Gamecocks and winning both games would give them the first undefeated season in program history.

Staley’s been pleased with the way South Carolina’s latest win played out to this point in the season, but she and her staff continuously remind their players that the job isn’t anywhere near finished.

With a tally of No. 11 Mississippi State (23-3, 10-4 SEC) coming into town Thursday for the Gamecocks’ senior night, South Carolina can’t afford to live in the past, something that’s been an issue even though the win over Tennessee was arguably its biggest of the season.

‘If we don’t win that game, that nullifies this win. With only two regular season games remaining, South Carolina still has a lot of work to get done before the SEC tournament begins next week in North Little Rock, Arkansas. A win against Mississippi State or No. 15 Kentucky next Sunday would clinch the No. 1 seed in the SEC tournament for the Gamecocks and winning both games would give them the first undefeated season in program history.’

Staley’s been pleased with the way South Carolina has played thus far in South Carolina’s latest win, which ‘Leighsa and Elem have really put us on their backs. It’s been a great ride, as far as the things that we’ve been able to accomplish and know that it’s not over yet,’ Staley said.

Still, if there’s any SEC team that could possibly spoil South Carolina’s upcoming senior night, it might be the visiting Bulldogs.

Mississippi State has won seven of its last nine games and finds itself in third place in the SEC standings.

While the Bulldogs haven’t made the NCAA tournament since 2010, head coach Vic Schaefer’s team will return soon enough, thanks to its stellar season to this point.

Mississippi State has three wins over Top 25 teams and 149 points per game, 22nd best in the country.

Freshman forward Victoria Vivians leads the Bulldogs with 14.9 points per game.

As impressive as Mississippi State’s season has been, it’ll be going up against a South Carolina team that is 6-1 since Top 25 opener against Missippi in early February.

While the Bulldogs haven’t faced both Auburn and Alabama this season, the Gamecocks will travel to Kentucky next Sunday in the regular season finale Sunday.

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Brennen Cowherd
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The nonconference portion of the schedule is over, and women’s tennis head coach Kevin Epley said he’s expecting big things from the women’s team Friday and Sunday during their home weekend.

“Tonight was a game in which ‘Leighsa and Elem really put us on their backs. It’s been a great ride, as far as the things that we’ve been able to accomplish and know that it’s not over yet,” Epley said.

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