September 2008  In this month’s issue, we introduce you to the class of 2012, the biggest and brightest class ever to attend the University of South Carolina. We’ll also provide you with information to share with your students on resources offered by Student Affairs and Academic Support.

Record number of applicants for fall freshman class

- Nearly 17,000 applied
- 9,955 were admitted
- 3,900 enrolled

Freshmen continue family traditions
- 615 freshmen—16 percent of the first-year class—have a parent who also attended the University.
- 35 freshmen have a parent who works for the University.

The average SAT score is record-high
At 1194, the mean SAT of this fall’s freshman class is at an all-time high. The mean SAT has risen 90 points in just seven years.

First-year students select challenging and exciting programs of study

- Arts and Sciences 33.2%
- Business 26.6%
- Other 17.7%
- Engineering & Info. Technology 9.4%
- Hospitality, Retail & Sports Mgmt. 4.8%
- Nursing 4.8%
- Journalism & Mass Comm. 7.2%

Most freshmen are South Carolinians
The majority of freshmen call the Palmetto State home, but students in the class of 2012 also hail from 39 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. The top six states represented—other than South Carolina—are North Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey (which are tied).

2012 has most international students
The freshman class represents 16 foreign countries, up from 9 last year. The top five countries represented in order are:
- Saudi Arabia
- India
- Canada
- Germany
- South Korea, Mexico and Oman (tied)

Note: This report is based on preliminary data.
For your reference file
For additional copies, call 777.4172 or e-mail gudridge@sc.edu.

Comments
Your comments and suggestions for future issues of “Causerie” are welcome. Please e-mail studentaffairs@gwm.sc.edu.

Resources to help make our students better students.

Gamecock Connection
www.gamecockconnection.org

New this year, Gamecock Connection is an online academic and social networking site for first-year students. The site helps first-year students by providing a place where students can go to get questions answered, make friends and find things to do on and around campus.

Services offered by the site include:
• advice on topics such as health and wellness or money and finance
• videos and quizzes
• networking and communication tools

Currently, 2,000 first-year students have profiles on the site.

Academic Centers for Excellence
www.housing.sc.edu/ace

The Academic Centers for Excellence (ACE), located in residence halls and at the Student Success Center, offer students an opportunity to improve their academic success.

ACE offers four major services:
• academic skills consultations
• writing consultations
• math tutoring
• online learning inventories

Last year, more than 3,500 students benefited from ACE’s programs and services.

University 101
www.sc.edu/univ101

University 101 is the award-winning program for first-year students designed to help them succeed in academic and life transitions at the University.

The elective course offers:
• tips on studying, note-taking and time management
• introduction to more than 200 student clubs and organizations
• methods for sharpening critical-thinking and decision-making skills

Studies have found that students who enroll in University 101 tend to excel academically and to achieve higher retention and graduation rates than students who don’t enroll in the course.

Student Success Center
www.sa.sc.edu/ssc

The Student Success Center, housed in the Thomas Cooper Library, is the central campus location for academic support services.

The center’s offerings include:
• peer tutoring
• Supplemental Instruction (SI)
• scholarship retention programs

On average, students who attend SI regularly earn a third of a letter-grade higher than those who don’t.

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cau•se•rie

n. 1. An informal discussion or chat. 2. A publication of the Division of Student Affairs and Department of Academic Support describing timely topics of interest at the University of South Carolina.

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