Fall 2009  In this month’s issue, we introduce you to the class of 2013, the largest and most academically gifted class in University history. We’ll also provide you with information that we hope you’ll share with your students about resources offered by the Division of Student Affairs and Department of Academic Support.

Record number of applicants for fall freshman class

<table>
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<th>Nearly 17,698 applied</th>
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<td>11,265 were admitted</td>
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<td>3,920 enrolled</td>
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The 2009 freshman class includes:
• 48 National Merit, National Achievement and National Hispanic Scholars
• 77 Valedictorians
• 318 Honors College Students
• 481 Capstone Scholars
• 10 sets of twins!

The average SAT score remains high

First-year students’ mean high school GPA is 3.74.

For many, bachelor’s degree is only the beginning
• 44.7% plan to earn a master’s degree
• 15.1% plan to earn a Ph.D or Ed.D
• 9.2% plan to earn an M.D.
• 6.6% plan to earn a J.D.

Percentage of first-year students who rate their abilities above average
• Academic Ability— 81%
• Drive to Achieve— 79%
• Self-Confidence (intellectual)— 68%
• Writing Ability— 49%
• Computer Skills— 43%
• Artistic Ability— 27%

Most freshmen are South Carolinians
The majority of freshmen call the Palmetto State home, but students in the class of 2013 also hail from 39 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. The top five states represented—other than South Carolina—are North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, Maryland and New Jersey.
Resources to help make our students **better** students.

**Gamecock Connection**  
[www.gamecockconnection.org](http://www.gamecockconnection.org)  

Gamecock Connection, an academic and social networking site for first-year students, helps students learn about campus resources, get tips to improve academic and personal success, define goals and make friends.

Services offered by the site include:  
• advice on academic and life-skills topics  
• videos and quizzes  
• networking and communication tools

Currently, **73% of first-year students** have profiles on the site.  

For more information, including login details, call Jordan Edelman at 803.777.0684.

**Academic Centers for Excellence**  
[www.housing.sc.edu/ace](http://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 2,476 students** benefited from ACE’s programs and services.

**University 101**  
[www.sc.edu/univ101](http://www.sc.edu/univ101)  

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

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

Currently, about **75% of first-year students** are enrolled in U101. Studies have found that students in U101 tend to excel academically and to achieve higher retention and graduation rates.

**Student Success Center**  
[www.sa.sc.edu/ssc](http://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  
• early intervention 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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The data  
The information for this issue came from Undergraduate Admissions and the 2009 freshman survey administered by the University as part of the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) at the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA. Complete data from the 2009 CIRP will be available at http://kudzu.ipr.sc.edu. For more information on CIRP, visit www.heri.ucla.edu.

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

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For your reference file  
For additional copies, call 777.4172 or e-mail gudridge@sc.edu.

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