Nestled in the middle of the Palmetto State, 90 miles from the beach and 90 miles from the mountains, lies the “Famously Hot” city of Columbia. Home to approximately 860,000 people, this capital city of South Carolina is a hotspot for politics, events, entertainment, culture and of course the Carolina Gamecocks.

The city sets the backdrop for a unique college-town location that is home to the University of South Carolina. Boasting a variety of downtown areas for shopping and dining and serving as the political hub for the state, Columbia gives USC students a dynamic and exciting place to call home.

“Columbia is a vibrant and welcoming place to be,” said Kelly Barbrey, vice president of sales and marketing for the Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports and Tourism. “It is a wonderful community in which to live, study, work and grow.”

Whether you are from Columbia or only have visited while moving your student into his or her on- or off-campus residence, you certainly have experienced the Southern charm of the city as well as the pleasant weather and friendly people. At USC, we want your students to share in those same experiences. Part of the Gamecock lifestyle is immersing oneself in the culture of the surrounding city, and students are encouraged to participate in the exciting opportunities available to them right in their own backyard.

“I encourage Carolina students to become familiar with the local Columbia restaurants and businesses, visit the various festivals and markets in town and even experience the outdoors,” said Barbrey. “We have kayaking, biking, top-rated restaurants, eclectic shopping, weekly farmer’s markets and more. Columbia is a great place for students to enjoy big-city amenities without sacrificing the strong sense of community and graciousness typically found in smaller towns.”

So how can Gamecocks become more engaged in the Columbia community? Barbrey has a few recommendations.

“Students should visit the Columbia Visitor’s Bureau (CVB) website, www.columbiacvb.com, and refer to it for shopping, dining, attractions and event information,” she said. “They also should stay up-to-date with the CVB’s online calendar of events, as well as like “Experience Columbia, SC” on Facebook and follow @ColumbiaSC on Twitter.”

The Midlands Authority and USC work as partners to make life in Columbia all that students want and need. Now is an exciting time for Columbia residents. According to the Urban Land Institute, the city is looking forward to an economic boom over the next 30 years. Barbrey encourages students to remember this when looking for jobs.

“Columbia is not only a great place to go to school, but it also is a wonderful place to live after graduation,” she said. “When beginning a job search, students shouldn’t overlook the professional options right here in town. As the region grows, there are more career opportunities in a variety of fields. What’s more, the Columbia area rivals any community nationwide for young professionals and families to live, work and play.”

The CVB coined the term “Famously Hot” to describe the Columbia lifestyle, but there also are endless opportunities in town that are “surprisingly cool.” Gamecocks have access to a unique opportunity to be part of this beautiful city’s growth. From exciting cultural events to abundant opportunities for professional development, Columbia offers USC students an experience not found in many college towns.

“Columbia is moving forward while preserving its past,” said Barbrey. “It’s great to see a community excited for what the future holds, and USC students are encouraged to become part of the dynamic energy that surrounds life in the capital city.”

For more information about the CVB or Midlands Authority, visit www.columbiacvb.com.
Dear friends:

To parents of our new first-year students, welcome to the Carolina family. To parents of our December graduates, congratulations, and thank you for the role you have played in their accomplishments. To parents of our many students who are continuing their education and planning for the next semester, know that we remain committed to their educational and personal growth and that we will continue to provide information and support to you, their parents.

Thank you to all of you who visited our campus in October for Parents Weekend, our largest ever with nearly 10,000 participants. The enthusiasm and affection for the university that I saw displayed by you, your students and all those who participated in the weekend made it a successful and truly memorable event.

I offer a special thanks to those of you who gave to our Parents Annual Fund during the 2012-13 academic year. Your generosity, which supports programs that truly matter to your students, is deeply appreciated. Thanks to you, we were able to improve the technology in the Career Center’s classroom, which is vital for teaching students about career decision-making, career planning and job-searching skills. The technology helps students learn more effectively for life post-graduation, connect with key USC alumni throughout the world and secure internships and full-time employment. Your donations also helped support Dinner Dialogues, an annual program that increases the interaction between faculty members and their undergraduate students beyond the classroom. The Office of Parents Programs reimburses faculty members up to $10 per student when they invite their undergraduate classes into their homes for dinner. Dinner Dialogues helps break down the barriers that exist between students and their professors.

In this issue of Carolina Ties, we’re providing you with information about living and staying safe in Columbia and on the USC campus. Carolina is centrally located in the capital city of the Palmetto State, and we want your student to make the most of all Columbia has to offer. The city is an exciting place for young adults, offering everything from cultural events to networking opportunities with some of the state’s top employers. We are here to help your student navigate the campus and the city effectively, intentionally and safely. I encourage you to share the resources highlighted here with your students.

To stay informed and in touch with Carolina, I encourage you to join our dues-free Parents Association. By providing us with your email address, you’ll receive a monthly e-newsletter from the Office of Parents Programs updating you on student trends and issues as well as news from around the university. Sign up online at www.sa.sc.edu/parents.

Please stay in touch. We are always just a phone call away, and we can help direct you to the information you need. Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season!

Sincerely,

Dennis A. Pruitt
Vice President for Student Affairs, Vice Provost and Dean of Students
Creating a safe and healthy community of scholars is a priority at the University of South Carolina, and educating students on healthy decision-making is the cornerstone of many student services on campus. One shining example is the Office of Substance Abuse Prevention and Education (SAPE), which stays ahead of the curve by ensuring an environment that fosters well-informed decision-making among the student body.

The purpose of SAPE is to create a campus community that engages Carolina students in healthy, low-risk behaviors related to the use of alcohol and other drugs. The office works diligently to maintain a prevention portfolio filled with evidence-based strategies, practices and programs to reduce the risks associated with substance use among college students.

Prevention efforts are made through the SAPE office by engaging students, faculty, staff and the entire USC community.

For students
AlcoholEdu® for College is the online prevention program that helps students make decisions about alcohol and respond to the behaviors of peers. All incoming students under the age of 23 who are new to the USC Columbia campus are required to take this course. National results show that students who complete AlcoholEdu® report they are better prepared to identify when someone has consumed too much alcohol, prevent alcohol overdose, identify signs of alcohol poisoning, plan ahead to make responsible decisions and intervene when a friend is drinking too much. Approximately 6,000 incoming Carolina students completed AlcoholEdu® this fall.

The SAPE Peer Education Program is a student organization that advocates for low-risk behaviors and a healthy, safe environment. Members of the SAPE Peer Educator Program are nationally-certified through the Boosting Alcohol Consciousness Concerning the Health of University Students (BACCHUS) Network. They provide prevention presentations and workshops, coordinate alcohol-free tailgates and participate in the Carolina Community Coalition, a strategic group of community partners that promotes healthy and safe behaviors among Carolina faculty, staff, students and community organizations.

Students Taking Initiative and Responsibility (STIR) is an alcohol and/or marijuana screening and intervention program designed to help students identify and reduce potentially harmful consequences of substance use. STIR is a two-session, one-on-one intervention facilitated by social work graduate students trained in motivational interviewing and substance abuse risk reduction. The program provides services to approximately 260 students per year.

For faculty and staff
Alcohol policy workshops, also known as TIPS training, help build the confidence needed to prevent intoxication in others and to intervene with those who have misused alcohol. Key faculty and staff who attend this workshop learn how alcohol affects people who drink, how to identify intoxication rate factors and behavioral cues and how to develop strategies for preventing alcohol-related incidents. The SAPE office trains approximately 100 staff each year on these important skills.

For the community
The Carolina Community Coalition is comprised of key campus and community partners who collaborate to build capacity and perform ongoing assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of substance abuse prevention strategies for the purpose of making recommendations for policy change and reducing high-risk substance use and its consequences.

For more information on the Office of Substance Abuse Prevention and Education, visit www.sa.sc.edu/sape.

Keeping the Carolina community engaged
By Rhonda DiNovo
Substance Abuse Prevention and Education Director
As the fall semester comes to an end, you may be getting questions from your student about where he or she should live next school year. USC is busy thinking about those same questions and has a dedicated staff within the Department of Student Life to help students through this process.

With the majority of students living off-campus, USC established an office to serve as a resource to the students that live in Columbia and the surrounding community. That office, Off-Campus Student Services (OCSS), educates students about off-campus living in an effort to help them make informed decisions about where to live.

“Moving off campus can be challenging for students who previously lived in a residence hall or who are new to Columbia,” said Jami Campbell, community outreach director in OCSS. “Renting an apartment can be a daunting process for those who don’t have access to necessary information.”

From the search process and signing a lease to security deposits and landlord relationships, students have many factors to consider when determining housing solutions.

“We encourage students to make a list of their priorities when conducting their search and use that as a guide,” said Campbell. “What is a priority for some students might not be a priority for others. Once priorities are set, we can guide students in the search process to make it less overwhelming.”

Educating the student body about off-campus living is just the beginning for OCSS. The office also works closely with many surrounding apartment communities and neighborhood associations where students are likely to live. The OCSS staff holds regular events on campus showcasing numerous student-friendly services available in Columbia. Some of these events include Taste of Off-Campus, a merchant fair that allows students to discover local vendors in the Columbia area, and the semi-annual housing fair, which connects apartment communities and realtors to students in a very casual and open atmosphere.

OCSS also is in the process of expanding. This year, the staff is putting together an initiative to bring the on-campus living experience to off-campus communities. This will be done by providing staff with training seminars and campus programming from a diverse group of campus departments. With the addition of Student Legal Services, a free legal counsel for students that specializes in landlord and tenant law in South Carolina, OCSS is able to provide more for USC students than ever before.

“If students are new to living off-campus or have lived off-campus in the past, OCSS is available to help in their experiences,” said Campbell. “We are here to make the process as stress-free as possible. Your son or daughter is part of our Gamecock family, and our goal is to be a resource as he or she looks for a place to call home.”

For more information on Off-Campus Student Services, visit www.sa.sc.edu/ocss.

### Facts and figures:

**Who lives off-campus?**

- **73%** of USC Columbia students
- **70%** of undergraduate students
- **95%** of graduate students
- **99%** of professional students
Sarah Connolly, a community ambassador with Off-Campus Student Services, loves advocating for her off-campus peers. A senior finance, insurance and risk management major from Oakton, VA., Connolly became an ambassador in fall 2012. Here, she shares some of her thoughts on this unique experience.

How did you get involved as a community ambassador?

Last year marked the beginning of the Community Ambassador (CA) Program within the Off-Campus Student Services office. I recognized the potential for growth in the program and wanted to be a part of that experience. I ultimately was looking for a leadership position on campus that would allow me to be creative and innovative. Because the CA Program was brand new, I knew I would be able to find what I was looking for.

What resources do you promote via Off-Campus Student Services?

I offer assistance with the off-campus housing search, including tips on typical rental requirements. I help promote the off-campus housing locator, which is a website for students searching for potential off-campus rentals, and other online resources. As an ambassador, I also connect students with information about the fall and spring housing fairs, webinars (for students and parents) and the OCSS newsletter that disseminates valuable information to off-campus students and their families. I also love participating in OCSS events for students. One of my favorite events is Taste of Off-Campus!

What value have you gained from working as an ambassador?

The feeling of satisfaction I gain every time I help a student through the off-campus housing search is unexplainable. Knowing that students leave our office more educated and informed about off-campus housing is a very rewarding experience. It makes me happy to give back to the USC community.

To be an ambassador, you must live off-campus. What did you look for in an off-campus residence during your own search?

I’ve lived in both a house and an apartment during my time at USC. When looking for an off-campus residence, I primarily was concerned with proximity to campus and amenities. While my experiences living in a house and an apartment have both been very different, it is important to understand the associated responsibilities with each type of residence.

What advice do you have for students searching for off-campus housing?

My advice would be to stop by our office for a visit! There is a great deal of information we can give students when searching for housing. The information we provide is specifically catered to each individual, so visiting the office helps ensure that each student begins his or her search on the right foot. We are here to make sure everyone effectively uses his or her time.

For more information about the Community Ambassador Program, visit www.sa.sc.edu/ocss
Families partnering for student safety
By Leigh Hewlett Greene
Coordinator of Parents Programs

As the parent of a recent University of South Carolina graduate, Captain Eric Grabski understands the importance of student safety to USC parents and families. After serving in the military for three years, Grabski joined the university’s Division of Law Enforcement and Safety in 1986. After his arrival on campus, he rose through the ranks to his current position as director of community relations. In this role, Grabski educates members of the university on prevention, reduction and awareness of criminal activity.

Grabski works diligently to keep Carolina students safe. Like any other Gamecock parent, he experiences worry and concern about safety, but as a member of the campus Law Enforcement and Safety team, he uses first-hand knowledge to encourage other parents to stay abreast of current safety topics, resources and tips.

“As parents, we eventually face a time when our children go out on their own and explore the world,” said Grabski. “College is often the first step in this process, and we quickly realize that we must take on a new role with our students. Instead of day-to-day managers of our children’s lives, we become guides for them in the navigation of everyday life. Having meaningful conversations with them before and during the college years becomes imperative.”

Grabski encourages parents and families of USC students to familiarize themselves with campus and community resources and to remind students of this valuable information.

“Having a conversation about campus resources before an incident occurs is one of the greatest ways to help ensure the safety of your student,” he said. “Encourage your son or daughter to be aware of certain safety measures and to surround himself or herself with trusted friends and peers who have his or her best interest in mind.”

Grabski and the rest of the Law Enforcement and Safety team share the university’s goal of educating students and families about safety resources on campus. USC has multiple services to maintain a safe Carolina. From call boxes and evening shuttles to the university-wide Carolina Alert system and property registration processes (see information on the next page), the division works to protect the campus community and continually strives to make USC a safer place to live, work and learn.

In addition to these safety measures, the university also offers a number of programs and training sessions to educate students on crime prevention. Through these courses, students are given the opportunity to meet USC police officers in a positive environment.

“The university police department proactively creates a campus environment that is as safe and enjoyable as possible,” said Grabski. “Personal interaction with our division reminds students that we are here to guard their safety, and we aim to do so not only through a highly visible presence on campus but also through education.”

Knowing that your student is in a safe environment at USC is important to you as a parent, and it is important to the university. With the Carolina campus situated in the middle of South Carolina’s state capital, students need access to the resources and knowledge required for maintaining their safety and well-being. Grabski believes that USC parents are an important component in connecting students to this necessary information, and he advocates on behalf of all students and families who are a part of the Gamecock community. As a long-time member of the USC Division of Law Enforcement and Safety, Grabski understands the importance of keeping students safe while away at college.

“I am here to protect the people of our community,” he said. “I am a Gamecock, a law enforcement officer and a USC employee, but most importantly, I am a parent. My work at the university is my passion, and creating a safe environment for the students of other Carolina parents is my priority.”

For more information about the USC Division of Law Enforcement and Safety, visit www.les.sc.edu.

Emergency call boxes are placed strategically throughout USC’s campus. Encourage your student to study the locations at www.les.sc.edu.
Safety resources on campus

Evening and late-night transportation
- USC's evening shuttle consists of two vans running from 5:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Monday-Friday during the academic year.
- The late-night shuttle operates from 12:30-6:30 a.m. Monday-Friday during the academic year. The shuttle is stationed at the Russell House and will pick up riders at their location and drive them to any campus destination. It can be dispatched by calling 803-777-3351.
- The APO Escort service is sponsored by the Iota Mu Chapter of Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity and provides escort transportation anywhere on campus. This service is available Sunday through Thursday, 8 p.m. to midnight, when classes are in session. It can be dispatched by calling 803-777-3825.

Call boxes
- Strategically placed around campus, call boxes are identified by bright blue lights and provide a direct line of communication to the USC Police Department and a police dispatcher.
- If communication is impossible, the dispatcher will know the user's exact location.
- There are more than 230 call boxes on- and off-campus.

Carolina Alert
- Carolina Alert is USC's one-stop emergency information source.
- Students can sign up for alerts at my.sc.edu/emergency.
- Students can add parent emails and phone numbers to their accounts so family members receive alerts as well.
- If a situation requires immediate action, Carolina Alert will push information via disruptive media (i.e. sirens, email, AlertFM, text messages, TV message crawler, etc.).
- If a situation does not pose immediate danger, Carolina Alert will communicate information via media such as the Carolina Alert website, Facebook page and Twitter page.

Property registration
- Project I.D. allows any personal property to be engraved with identifying information, registered and stored in a database in the event the item is stolen.
- Through the Protect-A-Book program, a unique seal is stamped onto the inside cover of a book with invisible ink, and the student writes his or her initials on a page of his or her choice.
- Through the S.T.O.P Tag (Security Tracking of Property) program, a security plate is attached to a student's laptop, which bears a unique barcode and a highly visible toll-free number to the STOP Company and USC Law Enforcement and Safety.

For more information, visit www.les.sc.edu/CPCR/index.asp.

Walk Home Cocky: new safety initiative

What is it?
Walk Home Cocky is a new safety program on the USC campus. It offers a safe walk home to students leaving the Thomas Cooper Library late at night. Trained volunteer walkers accompany students on their walks home and are equipped with radios and a direct line of communication to the USC Police Department.

How do students benefit from it?
Many students study in the library late at night, facing a choice to walk across campus alone in the dark. Walk Home Cocky gives students a safe option for getting from the library to their campus homes during these later hours.

How can students use it?
Walk Home Cocky operates Sunday through Thursday, from 10:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. If a student is in the Thomas Cooper Library at this time, he or she can find the Walk Home Cocky table at the front of the building. After signing a form, two volunteers will then accompany him or her to his or her campus destination!

When did it begin?
Started by the 2012-13 Freshman Council, which is a part of Student Government, the initiative launched Oct. 21, 2013.

How are volunteers trained for it?
Every volunteer is required to participate in a training session. Captain Eric Grabski speaks and answers questions during the training, and volunteers are refreshed on critical concepts during each of their Walk Home Cocky shifts.

For more information, visit www.sa.sc.edu/sg/walkhomecocky.
A bit of time has passed since moving your student to Columbia for the semester, and your son or daughter hopefully is feeling at home in his or her residence hall, apartment or house. You’ve made sure he or she is comfortable while living away from home and, thanks to technology, you’re able to check in often so your mind remains at ease.

This transition can be tough, and the University of South Carolina is aware of the worries and concerns that parents and families experience when their students no longer live under the same roof. For that purpose, USC makes it a priority to continuously remind members of the Gamecock family about safety tips for living on- and off-campus.

One topic that is often overlooked and is crucial to staying safe in a place of residence is fire safety. Knowing and understanding the risks of fire in a student’s living environment is important to his or her well-being.

“Understanding the danger associated with fire is imperative for college students,” said Todd Griffin, USC’s fire marshal. “Students should know how fires spread and recognize the hazards of the smoke and gases produced during a fire.”

Whether your student lives in a campus residence hall or an off-campus apartment or house, he or she should know the key steps for practicing fire safety. Griffin acknowledges and highlights a number of critical tips for developing safety consciousness among USC students.

• Common causes of fire in a residence include unattended cooking, overloaded electrical circuits or extension cords, candles, obstructions in dryer vents, oversized light bulbs in lamps and the improper disposal of smoking utensils.
• Common types of fires in a residence include grease fires, electrical fires, appliance fires and fires from smoking or candles.
• A student should never run appliances or leave fans or televisions powered on when not home.
• Extension cords are not a safe solution for permanent power. Students should use UL-approved surge protectors. Surge protectors should be plugged directly into an outlet and not into another surge protector.
• Students should know where the nearest emergency exit is located in their residence as well as the direction of any stairwells in the building.
• Smoke detection is a must. Detection that is supervised by a fire alarm system and monitored by a central station is preferred. All USC residence hall smoke detectors are supervised and monitored. A fire sprinkler system also is important.
• Students are encouraged to reach out to the USC Fire Safety office at 803-777-1640 for training and classes.

Please share these tips with your son or daughter, and talk about fire safety plans with him or her to ensure safety while living away from home. Whether your student lives on the USC campus or in its surrounding areas, Griffin emphasizes that the university shares your goal of keeping him or her safe.

“As you engage in conversation with your student about fire safety tips, know that USC supports all Gamecock families in the goal of protecting health and safety in the Carolina community,” he said.

For more information from the USC Fire Safety office, visit www.sc.edu/ehs/fireSafety.htm.

In photo: Dawn Staley, USC’s women’s basketball head coach, races with Cocky in firefighter gear.
“Image is everything.”

This Canon® slogan is from 1990. Andre Agassi was the spokesman, and he was selling cameras using his tennis-court fame and bad-boy image. More than 20 years later, modern cameras and Agassi’s persona have changed, but the meaning of that slogan remains constant.

In the age of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and countless other social media outlets, the online images that we create for ourselves mean everything. They can determine others’ opinions of us and the first impressions that we give, and they often can be the difference between being hired for a job or not.

“This is a reality that exists for all age groups,” said Kesha Entzminger, career development coach in USC’s Career Center. “However, students currently enrolled in college face a large challenge as they move toward graduation and job hunting.”

Referred to as the most photographed generation in history, today’s college students must be mindful about what they post online. Many employers have adopted the practice of searching for job candidates on Facebook and other social media sites before making hiring decisions. What these companies find online is strongly considered when looking at an applicant’s entire resume package.

With smartphones, tablets and other handheld technologies, students have quicker and easier access to the online world than ever before. Their phones are always in-hand for sharing pictures, tweets and posts, often with images or thoughts that they haven’t had time to fully consider. These posts are then placed in cyberspace for many other people to see. It is imperative for students to know the implications of placing personal information online.

Together with a strong resume and well-polished interviewing skills, however, a student’s online presence can actually be an advantage to their credentials. Here are some suggestions for reminding students about appropriate and professional online activity.

- A complete and thorough LinkedIn profile should be the first thing that appears when a student’s name is searched online. Remind your student to set up a LinkedIn account for this purpose and to review LinkedIn’s tips for standing out to potential employers. The career development coaches at USC’s Career Center can assist students in this process.
- Students should carefully manage their Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other profiles including the privacy settings. Encourage your student also to create a list of professional contacts and follow companies or professional associations to show interest in specific career fields.
- Students can look for hashtags from professional associations in order to identify and connect with leaders in specific career fields.
- Students can keep their profiles fresh by adding content that is relevant to their professional lives. They can post insightful comments on other posts, blogs, etc. They should avoid criticism and negativity at all times.
- Students should avoid posting inappropriate images and comments about alcohol use or other high-risk behaviors.

Employers can and will search for students’ online identities. Even those who prepare tirelessly for the interview process cannot explain self-damaging images and posts online.

“Professional organizations, businesses and corporations are highly protective of their brand identities,” said Entzminger. “College students and job-seeking individuals need be equally as protective.”

For more information about social media awareness from the USC Career Center, visit www.sc.edu/career.

Connect with us!

Sign up for the Parents Association
You’ll receive monthly parent e-newsletters and important university updates. It’s free and the best way for parents to stay connected to the University of South Carolina! To sign up, visit www.sa.sc.edu/parents.

Parents Assistance Line
(800) 868-6752

Email
separents@sc.edu

Website
www.sa.sc.edu/parents

Like us and stay updated on Parents Programs happenings!
www.facebook.com/UofSCParents

Follow us on Instagram @UofSCParents and share your favorite USC photos from the past or the present!
Campus happenings

USC recognized for campus diversity

For the second year in a row, USC is recognized by INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine as one of the nation’s top universities for diversity and inclusivity. The Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) award is given to schools that demonstrate a commitment to a diverse campus experience. This year’s award was given to 55 other schools, and USC is the only school in South Carolina to win the award. USC and the other award honorees are featured in the magazine’s November 2013 issue.

USC named military-friendly school

Financial, academic and social support for members of the military and veterans helped earn USC a place on the 2014 Military Friendly Schools list. The award honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that excel in embracing military students and ensuring their success in the classroom and after graduation. The list, compiled by Victory Media Inc., serves as a primary resource for service members and military families seeking education and has played a significant role for the past five years showing the best practices in supporting military students on campuses across the country. The list was highlighted in the annual G.I. Jobs Guide to Military Friendly Schools in October.

USC launches new minor in applied computing

Getting a competitive edge in today’s job market increasingly depends on specialized computer skills once available only to a few. That’s why the University of South Carolina has created a new degree option that offers current students a flexible, practical path to gaining the knowledge top employers are looking for. Applied Computing is a new multidisciplinary minor available to Columbia campus students. The minor consists of nine separate tracks and allows students from a variety of majors to master high-demand computer skills that complement their fields of study.

Date set for upcoming career fairs

The university’s Career Fest (for non-technical careers) and the Science, Engineering and Technology (S.E.T.) Career Fair are scheduled for Jan. 29, 2014. National, regional and state employers will be available to speak with students and alumni about internships, cooperative education opportunities and full-time positions. For more information, visit www.sc.edu/career.
The Office of Parents Programs wishes to thank all donors who made gifts to the Parents Annual Fund between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013.

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Mr. Timothy Lawrence Prince  Mrs. Susan C. Schoenling
Mr. Thomas G. Prucha  Mr. Robert Alan Scholz
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Russell Purdy III  Ms. Denise P. Schwartz
Ms. Kathryn A. Quiriconi  Ms. Laura M. Scruggs
Mrs. Karla B. Radford  Ms. Janice C. Shuster
Mr. Michael A. Ragno  Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Settles
Mr. and Mrs. William M. Ratliff III  Mr. and Mrs. Philip S. Shaw
Mrs. Annette Estelle Rauenhorst  Mr. and Mrs. Gregory S. Sheldon
Mrs. Louise H. Reeves  Ms. Denise P. Schwartz
Mr. and Mrs. Rodger D. Repp  Ms. Laura M. Scruggs
Ms. Suzanne Marie Reynolds  Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Settles
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Glen Richardson  Mr. and Mrs. Philip S. Shaw
Mrs. Shirley A. Rinehart  Mr. and Mrs. Gregory S. Sheldon
Mrs. Maria Riordan  Ms. Lisa L. Shima
Mr. Peter A. Riordan, Sr.  Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Settles
Mr. Harry Rodman  Mr. and Mrs. Philip S. Shaw
Mr. and Mrs. David Richard Roesch  Mr. and Mrs. Gregory S. Sheldon
Mrs. Deborah W. Roger  Ms. Denise P. Schwartz
Ms. Sheryl E. Rosenfeld  Ms. Laura M. Scruggs
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bernard Ross  Ms. Janice C. Shuster
Mr. Eugene Joseph Rossi  Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Settles
Mrs. Tammy Rohell  Mr. and Mrs. Gregory S. Sheldon
Ms. Kissi D. Royester  Ms. Lisa L. Shima

Care has been taken in the preparation of this report to assure complete and accurate recording. However, if omissions or errors have occurred, we express our sincere regret and request that you bring such errors to our attention.
Resources
This issue of Carolina Ties focuses on living and staying safe on- and off-campus. Use these resources to help you learn more about the programs and services available for students.

Office of Parents Programs
Parents Assistance Line: 1-800-868-6752
scparents@sc.edu • www.sa.sc.edu/parents

Career Center
803-777-7280 • www.sc.edu/career

Columbia Visitor’s Bureau
803-545-0000 • www.columbiacvb.com

Off-Campus Student Services
803-777-3366 • www.sa.sc.edu/ocss

Substance Abuse Prevention and Education
803-777-3933 • www.sa.sc.edu/sape

USC Division of Law Enforcement and Safety
803-777-8400 • www.les.sc.edu

USC Fire Safety
803-777-1640 • www.sc.edu/ehs/fireSafety.htm

Spring 2014 Calendar

January 8  Residence halls open at 8 a.m.
January 13  First day of spring semester classes
January 17  Last day to change/drop a course without a grade “W” being recorded
January 20  Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service (no classes - campus offices closed)
February 3  Last day to apply for May graduation
March 3  Last day to drop/withdraw from a course without a grade “WF” being recorded
          Midpoint in the spring semester
March 8  Residence halls close at 10 a.m. for spring break
March 8-16  Spring break (no classes)
March 16  Residence halls open at 8 a.m.
April 28  Last day of classes
April 29  Reading day (no classes)
April 30-May 7  Spring semester final exams
May 8  Residence halls close at 10 a.m.
May 9-10  Commencement exercises
May 11  Residence halls close for graduating seniors at 10 a.m.