“The plan has been to enable us to give our student-athletes and coaches the resources they need to compete at the highest level in the SEC and nationally. And look back over the past five, six years and you see many programs have been elevated.”

Ray Tanner, Athletics Director
“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

- Eleanor Roosevelt

The South Carolina Athletics program develops students to their highest potential through sports. How? It happens from the synergy that occurs with great coaching, talented student-athletes, and a sincere commitment by the University and all of the supporters who make up Gamecock Nation. It’s the Garnet Way – the way we take care of business.

Our Master Plan for Athletics Facilities has been crafted in collaboration with administrators, coaches, students and donors, to ensure our student-athletes have what they need to excel – athletically and academically. The work has begun through the Academic Enrichment Center – “The Dodie”, as it’s affectionately called.

The Athletics Village at the Roost, with The Dodie as its centerpiece, celebrates our traditions, while ushering in the technology and tools our coaches need to help our athletes compete effectively, in sports and in life.

Great student-athletes look to their coaches as valuable teachers and mentors. It is critically important to provide our coaching staffs with top-notch resources to support our teams and to help recruit the next generation of talent. The 66,000-square-foot Rice Athletics Center will provide those resources.

The University is committed to South Carolina Athletics through Carolina’s Promise. We have evolved. The national spotlight has found us – now, we want to dominate it as a top 25 program nationwide.

Join us in partnership to make it happen – for the student-athletes, our University, and the entire state.
"The greatest time to be a Gamecock is upon us. The Athletics Village at the Roost, the main thrust of our Master Plan for Athletics Facilities, is another example of our commitment to Carolina Athletics. We’re creating championship-caliber facilities for our student-athletes and coaches that rival those of any program across the country.”

Tommy Suggs
Chairman, Garnet Way Cabinet
“One day of practice is like one day of clean living. It doesn’t do you any good.”

- Abe Lemmons

Consecutive NCAA Division I Baseball titles. SEC titles, including an SEC East football championship, and women’s soccer championships. Two National Equestrian Championships. The Women’s Outdoor Track & Field national title...

Those are just a few of the standout feats that have increasingly brought Gamecock Athletics into the national consciousness in recent years.

Taking each sport to the next level will require unprecedented contributions to develop new athletics facilities. Placing our student-athletes on equal competitive footing with esteemed SEC rivals will only be accomplished when all projects in our Master Plan for Athletics Facilities are completed.

The Garnet Way Campaign – the athletics department’s part in the comprehensive Carolina’s Promise capital campaign – is a plan to build or improve world-class athletics facilities with philanthropic support. The Master Plan is rapidly building momentum, and it’s just one of four components outlined by Athletics Director Ray Tanner as a championship requirement. The others are: a prominent university committed to athletics, excellent coaches, and a vibrant community to proudly present to recruits.

USC student-athletes – along with their coaches, trainers and a virtual army of support staff – are achieving greater success season after season, year after year. Excellent facilities for training, practicing and performing play a key role in making their success possible. And your support makes those facilities a reality.
“We’re committed to building a program of integrity and academic excellence that consistently competes for national championships.”

Ray Tanner, Athletics Director
“Nothing good comes in life or athletics unless a lot of hard work has preceded the effort. Only temporary success is achieved by taking short cuts.”

- Roger Staubach

While, as might be expected, accomplishments on the gridiron, diamond, courts and other platforms of competitive sport dominate the headlines when it comes to the University of South Carolina Athletics Department, those accomplishments are only half the story.

In fact, there’s another long list of notable achievements in performance that we take just as seriously. And from which we take at least as much satisfaction. Some examples from that list include:

- Departmental GPA of 3.0 or above for 11 consecutive semesters
- Highest-ever departmental GPA in Fall 2011 (3.202)
- SEC leader in students on the Commissioner's Honor Roll since 2006-07
- 200 student-athletes have graduated in the last 2 years (Including 50 football student-athletes)
- More than 4,000 hours of community service performed in 2011-12

Our goals in the Athletics Department have always been to have a nationally prominent program, to compete with ever-increasing success for national championships, and to boast an outstanding level of academic excellence among student-athletes in every sport.

We’re proud to say we’re achieving those goals. And getting better every year.

Achievements by our student-athletes, both on the field and in the classroom, demonstrate the promise of South Carolina Athletics. As we celebrate 20 years of SEC membership, our road map to championship-caliber programs in 20 intercollegiate sports is clearly defined. With your support we'll have much to celebrate for many years to come.
“South Carolina’s historically had a strong track & field program, both indoors and outdoors. Not many people get an opportunity to be part of a program like this so I feel very fortunate for my experience. I know I couldn’t have accomplished what I have without my coaches and teammates pushing me.”

LaKya Brookins
“Champions are everywhere; all you have to do is train them properly.”

- Arthur Lydiard

Know anyone who’s officially been the fastest woman in the world? We do.

Building on her coach’s promise to tap into her full potential, sprinter LaKya Brookins is a high-speed showcase for what Gamecock Track & Field can accomplish. At the end of the 2011 indoor season, she held the fastest 60-meter-dash time in the world.

The accolades for Brookins don’t end there. She’s in the record books as the first back-to-back 60-meter-dash champion (2010 and 2011) in SEC history and also became South Carolina’s first SEC champion in the event after claiming the title in 2010. LaKya followed up her stellar 2010 season by capturing the 2011 NCAA 60-meter-dash championship and being named an Indoor All-American.

“Our coaching staff was true to their word during recruitment,” says Brookins, a native of Seneca, S.C. She is proud to witness another promise nearing completion: Carolina Athletics’ commitment to take 20 intercollegiate sports to national prominence through the Master Plan for Athletics Facilities.

Brookins believes the upcoming improvements to the track and field facility will deliver championships from day one. They will, in her words, “set the bar even higher for the successes we hope to achieve.”

Our coaches and student-athletes have what it takes athletically, and a core focus of the Master Plan is to ensure that, with your support, they’ll also have the resources they need to achieve world records at the University of South Carolina.
"It’s so exciting to have experienced these achievements during my first year in the program, but more important to me is the success of our team. As a whole, Gamecock Athletics is on the rise, and I’m looking forward to the milestones we’ll reach as I complete my education and collegiate career at South Carolina."

Amanda Rutqvist
“The best and fastest way to learn a sport is to watch and imitate a champion.”

- Jean-Claude Killy

Just a week after USC senior Taryn Zack set the SEC Championship record in one-meter diving, giving the Gamecocks their 10th all-time SEC diving championship, freshman Amanda Rutqvist became South Carolina’s first-ever women’s swimmer to win an SEC championship.

Rutqvist’s victory in the 200-yard breaststroke event at the 2011 SEC Swimming Championships in Gainesville, Florida, was never in doubt – she led the entire race, beating her closest competitor by nearly two seconds and breaking a 10-year-old SEC record in the process. Her time also shattered the existing school record by almost five seconds.

The daughter of a collegiate swimmer, the Swedish-born freshman took her historic accomplishment in stride, but her coaches saw it as an indicator of great things to come.

They didn’t have to wait long. Rutqvist’s win automatically qualified her for a berth in the 2011 NCAA Women’s Swimming & Diving Championships, where she placed fifth in the 200-yard breaststroke and was awarded All-America honors. As a member of a program that has produced 21 Olympians and 375 All-Americans, Amanda and her teammates can look forward to bright careers as Gamecock student-athletes.

You can champion the development of young student-athletes like Amanda Rutqvist, as well as one of the nation’s most astounding and well-rounded athletics programs, by pledging your support during the Carolina’s Promise campaign.
“Our football program always receives outstanding support from our loyal Gamecock fans – the nation’s best. We need to continue building on what we’ve accomplished on the field.”

Steve Spurrier
“Football is a game played with arms, legs and shoulders, but mostly from the neck up.”

- Knute Rockne

With championships captured and records smashed year after year, could Gamecock Athletics be any more exciting?

“Absolutely!” says Head Coach Steve Spurrier.

“In the last two years we beat the number one team in the country; we beat the Gators, the Bulldogs and the Volunteers for the first time ever in a single season; and we brought home our first SEC East title and won 11 games in one season for the first time in the University’s history.”

All-American Alshon Jeffery also broke the single-season receiving records for catches and yards in 2010, and Marcus Lattimore was the unanimous choice for National Freshman of the Year.

It all happened as the Gamecocks were posting the highest team GPA on record.

Impressive, but like Sandstorm – the adopted, “pump-it-up” anthem of Gamecock Football – the excitement just keeps getting more and more intense. As the new athletics facilities take shape, Coach Spurrier says, with a confident grin, that the best is yet to come.

Your support will bolster the promise of a championship-caliber athletics program as future Gamecocks experience these excellent facilities – all crucial elements for success – and the supportive environment they foster.
“We have what is needed to be successful at South Carolina – a tremendous coaching staff, an athletics director in Ray Tanner who has further energized Gamecock Nation, and constant expansion and improvement in our facilities. Everything is in place for our program to continue its journey to the ultimate success.”

Dawn Staley
“No matter what the competition is, I try to find a goal that day and better that goal.”

- Bonnie Blair

Head Coach Dawn Staley has long been an icon in women’s basketball on every level. A three-time Olympic gold medalist, 2012 Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame inductee and one of the WNBA’s Top 15 of all-time, Coach Staley knows what it takes to be a winner. Her on-court knowledge and passion for the game have propelled the Gamecocks into the national spotlight as well.

The 2011-12 season marked the fourth time the Gamecocks have reached the NCAA Tournament Sweet 16. It was also the program’s deepest run in the tournament since the 2001-02 team advanced to the Elite Eight. In 2011-12, the Gamecocks reached 23 wins for the first time since the 2001-02 season, including five wins over top 25 teams.

“Making the first big step on the national stage in 2011-12 was important, but I’m confident our best days at South Carolina are ahead of us,” says Coach Staley. “The players we have coming in and the groundwork our coaching staff is laying with future classes has us prepared to grow even more. We feel like we have a gold mine here, and I’m proud of the direction our program is going.”

Your support of South Carolina Athletics will help ensure we continue to have the experience and expertise of world-class champions on our team and continue to mold outstanding student-athletes into team players and leaders for the future.
“My coaching philosophy is to instill the right culture – on the court and off. In our program, we believe that to develop personally and athletically you have to have a culture of discipline, accountability, reliability and teamwork. On the court and off, day in and day out, we’ll be practicing that.”

Josh Goffi
“It is a fine thing to have ability, but the ability to discover ability in others is the true test.”
- Lou Holtz

When men’s tennis Coach Josh Goffi took the reins in July 2010, he brought a renewed enthusiasm and direction to the program. His immediate commitment to character is reflected in his team as well as the striking new tennis facility. From the moment it opened in Spring 2012, Carolina Tennis Center enhanced the character of the Athletics Village.

The Carolina Tennis Center features 12 lighted courts (six on each side of the venue), two large master scoreboards and individual scoreboards at each court. There are video cameras at every court to record play or stream it online. And with an elevated seating area for more than 700 spectators, the facility is extremely fan-friendly and a great motivator for players.

In 2012, the Gamecock men’s and women’s programs qualified for the NCAA Tournament. It was the 19th time the men qualified and the 22nd time the women qualified.

“Tennis looks like an individual sport, but in college it’s the team result that matters,” Coach Goffi said. “At Carolina Tennis Center, our guys are able to see what their teammates are doing and share their energy. The set-up here allows the fans to be just as important to our success.”

Top-quality facilities like the Carolina Tennis Center are not only a source of pride and inspiration for student-athletes and Gamecocks fans, they are a drawing card for recruiting top talent and creating an ever stronger presence in the world of collegiate sport. It’s your support that makes those facilities possible.
“It was a distinct honor to have the Academic Enrichment Center become the first building constructed and opened within the Athletics Village at The Roost. I am proud to be a part of Gamecock Athletics’ success, both on the field and in the classroom. It’s a cause I firmly believe in.”

Dodie Anderson
“Man’s flight through life is sustained by the power of his knowledge.”

- Austin “Dusty” Miles

“I had no idea it was such a big deal.”

That (and a characteristically humble, “thanks to everyone for letting me be part of it”) was what Dodie Anderson had to say at the dedication of “The Dodie” – the extraordinary new Academic Enrichment Center that bears her name and for which her gift was the genesis.

Generations of future Gamecock student-athletes will know what a “big deal” it is, as they benefit from the building already fondly – and accurately – referred to as “the heart” of the Athletics Village. It is our commitment, with integrity and purpose, to build tomorrow’s professional athletes as well as the doctors, lawyers, teachers and business owners who will graduate and go on to lead productive lives.

USC has placed more student-athletes on the Fall Academic Honor Roll than any other SEC campus for six years straight, and on the Spring Academic Honor Roll for five of the past six years. Anderson, Greer, SC native and Garnet Way Cabinet member, understands the power behind that achievement, and she embodies all that philanthropy can do to elevate USC’s prominence – in athletics and academics.

A 1981 graduate of USC Upstate, Anderson has supported many Gamecock causes over the years. “It’s been a fun journey, and cheering on the Gamecocks – it’s certainly not a bad thing to do in my golden years. Go Gamecocks!”

Dodie Anderson’s passion is our passion – to know that our contributions will help promote athletics, our University, and the state, to the rest of the world – now waking up to the power and potential of Gamecock Athletics.
“We realize that every single person on this team has a role. As we’ve progressed, you know, we don’t allow individualism. We’ve stepped up and we’ve said we’re going to make ‘family’ our number one priority.”

Kayla Grimsley
“Sport is part of every man and woman’s heritage and its absence can never be compensated for.”

- Pierre de Coubertin

Early in the 2011 season, Head Coach Shelly Smith asked her women’s soccer team members to get into small groups, think as outsiders looking in and come up with as many words as they could to describe the team.

“They came up with lots of words,” says the 2011 SEC Coach of the Year, “but in the end, the three words that really came out were: family, grit and pride. Those were the three things they talked about, and that stuck.”

“That’s what we work for,” explains graduated forward Kayla Grimsley, 2011 SEC Offensive Player of the Year and the first repeat NSCAA All-American in Gamecock history. “That’s what we are in practice, that’s what we are on the field, and what we are off the field. That will never change.”

Sophomore goaltender Sabrina D’Angelo agrees. “In the end we’re a team, and we win or lose as a team. If we’re not a family we’re not going to be able to get through the hard times and be able to win the hard matches.” At season’s end, D’Angelo was named 2011 SEC Co-Defensive Player of the Year and 2011 SEC Freshman of the Year.

According to Grimsley, it’s that family spirit that literally defines the team.

“Every time we step on that field,” she says, “it’s: We are Carolina, and you’re going to know who Carolina is after this game.”

In a very real way, everyone who contributes in support of Athletics at USC is part of one big (and very enthusiastic) family. No matter which program your gift goes to, no matter whether it’s for facilities or equipment, scholarships or scholastic tools, when you give, everybody wins. Now is the time. Join the family!
“The truth is, every private gift to the program is momentous and displays support of the entire Gamecock Athletics family. A superior complex will elevate our total program. It will inspire our student-athletes. It will help attract the country’s top collegiate softball players. It will give our program the potential for national recognition it deserves.”

Beverly Smith
“Champions are made from something they have deep inside them - a desire, a dream, a vision.”

- Muhammad Ali

As a former ACC Player of the Year and associate head coach at North Carolina, Coach Beverly Smith knows what it takes to create a nationally ranked softball program.

In her first two years as the Gamecocks' head softball coach, she guided the team to significant improvements: 15 more wins in her first season, and gains in every important statistical category, including runs scored and batting average.

Playing at the Southeastern Conference's longest-standing softball facility, provides a solid foundation for tradition, but Coach Smith is quick to emphasize that the national stature of South Carolina Softball will only rise when improved results and tradition meet the future.

Being able to train and compete on a new field in a state-of-the-art, 1,400-capacity stadium will be a home run. “It will be a dream come true for all Gamecock Softball alumnae and for our current student-athletes,” says Coach Smith, “as well as for all the players who will follow in the future.”

Private support – your support – can help Coach Beverly Smith and her current roster of Lady Gamecocks get the ball rolling for a new era of South Carolina Softball, making our program more attractive to the country's best young players, and growing a fan base already high in enthusiasm and allegiance.
Our players deserve a tremendous amount of credit for their accomplishments, but I'm convinced that you can't win at the highest level without great fans and we have that in our Gamecock faithful!

Chad Holbrook, Head Baseball Coach
“Going to Omaha for the College World Series - the people there are tremendous - huge crowds and a lot of excitement. I still remember those days - you make a lot of friends that you never forget when you win a championship like that.”

- Roger Clemens

“You need some of the wow factor to get over the hump.”

That’s how Ray Tanner sums up the advantages of having a fantastic new stadium when it comes to recruiting top ballplayers and making a great team even better.

Prior to his 2012 promotion to Athletic Director at USC, then-Coach Tanner and his teams had more overall wins and more conference wins than any SEC team in 12 years. They didn’t just wow just their fans, they wowed the whole world of collegiate sports with six College World Series appearances in 11 years, including back-to-back national championships in 2010 and 2011.

As the second-winningest coach in SEC history, there was never any doubt about Tanner’s commitment to building the best. And he put every ounce of that dedication into making sure Carolina Stadium gives the Gamecocks a major home-field advantage – in team spirit and in recruiting for the future.

“There were plenty of times,” he says, “I would do a slow walk [around the new stadium] and just look at everything,” he says. “It’s really a special ballpark ... a player-friendly, fan-friendly place. We accomplished that.”

Ray Tanner has this to say about Carolina’s Promise: “Sixteen years ago, when I had the great opportunity to become the coach at the University of South Carolina, I knew we would find players that could compete on a national level. But the thing that was given was you. The support of the great fans in South Carolina makes all things possible. Thank you, thank you, thank you!”
“The Master Plan is our roadmap to success. We have already seen that the Gamecock Nation, through private support, is committed to making this vision a reality.”

Ray Tanner, Athletics Director
"Sports is human life in microcosm."

- Howard Cosell

Talented athletes and great teams require exceptional facilities to train for success. And they deserve the opportunity to excel in academics as well as athletics.

Since it was originally unveiled more than five years ago, the Athletics Department’s Master Plan has been serving as a roadmap and guidebook to providing USC student-athletes with both.

Our new baseball stadium has already provided the “home-field advantage” for back-to-back national championships, and 2012 brought the debut of an outstanding new tennis facility.

The Athletics Village is shaping up as “home” to more than 550 student-athletes competing in 20 sports. At its heart, true to our mission of producing great talent both for athletic competition and in the game of life, the state-of-the-art Dodie Anderson Academic Enrichment Center (The Dodie) draws acclaim from every quarter.

Coaches and their staffs are invaluable teachers and mentors, and providing them with top-notch resources to support our teams is a must. We’re eagerly anticipating this year’s opening of their “new home”: the 66,000 square-foot, three-floor Rice Athletics Center, right next door to The Dodie.

And finally, the Master Plan maps out an ever-better experience for fans – with more parking, better seating and a lush, park-like environment tailor-made for making the most of every game day...every season...in every sport in our program.

As it continues to unfold with your support, the Master Plan for Athletics Facilities will assure that USC student-athletes have the best training and practice facilities, the best-supported coaching staff, and the greatest opportunity for academic and athletic success in the nation.
“There’s a commitment here among Athletics Director Tanner, Coach Spurrier and the entire coaching staff to give student-athletes the best opportunities to excel. A new indoor facility is coming. Our new training room is making a difference with our play on the field. South Carolina has the best high school talent in the country, and we want those athletes to be Gamecocks. Our new facilities - especially The Dodie - are already getting their attention.”

Marcus Lattimore
“If you’re a champion, you have to have it in your heart.”

- Chris Evert

It’s difficult to imagine a student-athlete who could better represent the promise of Carolina Athletics than electrifying Gamecock running back Marcus Lattimore.

As a true freshman, the former South Carolina Mr. Football from Duncan, S.C., rushed for nearly 1,200 yards and 17 touchdowns.

In the process, this public health major was a dominant factor in leading the Gamecocks to their first SEC East title (2010) and 11-win season (2011) in school history.

Lattimore chose to study and play at South Carolina because he believes in the direction of the football program – and the idea that getting a quality education is the main part of being a student-athlete here. A newly opened football recruiting lounge, training room, and locker room are examples of accomplishments within the Master Plan for Athletics Facilities that are already making Carolina look better than ever while recruiting the best student-athletes.

Everyone connected with Gamecock Athletics knows without a doubt that “next year” is now. With your support for our student-athletes, coaches and their facilities and resources, every season will be a great one - and they’ll keep getting better and better.
"Our commitment to the student-athletes is of paramount importance. We must provide facilities and resources to give them the opportunity to excel at the highest level in the classroom and in competition. Our long-term results will guarantee a positive economic impact for Carolina, Columbia and the great state of South Carolina."

Ray Tanner, Athletics Director
It’s the opportunity – and challenge – of a lifetime for Gamecock Nation. South Carolina Athletics is achieving success on the national stage through its 20 intercollegiate sports programs. Our Master Plan is in place.

We need your support to complete this amazing adventure.

Our coaches and support personnel are committed to these young people in a way that goes far beyond the playing field. We have great expectations even as we understand the pressures they face. The Athletics Village is a major part of our vision that will help lift our program to the next level.

How can bricks and mortar accomplish all this? They can’t, alone. But, our master-planned village will provide the resources, the technology, the support our program needs to accomplish more for our state, the coaches who bring their skills to Gamecock country, and the young people who invest their dreams in our University.

You’ve met the Olympic medal winners and professionals who are coaching and mentoring our students. Donors have already come forward to support these great efforts. Now is the time to decide how you want to join them and partner with us to support Carolina’s Promise and get this job done.

To lend your support to South Carolina Athletics, please contact:
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University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina 29208 USA
to south carolina athletics
CarolinasPromise.sc.edu

THE CAMPAIGN for the UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA