division of student affairs and academic support

CAROLINA'S PROMISE

THE CAMPAIGN for the UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
“I came to USC because I knew the atmosphere was right for me – the sense of community, the opportunities, the extra guidance, the close relationships with professors – all of that is distinctly a part of the University of South Carolina.”

Alex Tracy, ’12
“For the things we have to learn before we can do, we learn by doing.”

- Aristotle

The Division of Student Affairs and Academic Support is at the heart of the USC undergraduate student experience, embracing the ways students spend 85 percent of their collegiate experience – outside the classroom.

Building on the traditions that define the one-of-a-kind experience of being a Carolina student – playing Frisbee or listening to a Hootie and the Blowfish concert on the Horseshoe, tailgating with friends and fraternity brothers before football games or dancing the night away to raise funds for philanthropic causes, meeting in the Russell House for meals and movies, exchanging ideas in Student Government and Student Media, competing on the intramural fields – Student Affairs and Academic Support ensures that all students have the opportunity to get the most out of campus life.

The University of South Carolina enjoys a reputation for academic excellence and genuine friendliness that makes it a destination of choice for tens of thousands of students who apply for admission each year.

Our mission in Student Affairs and Academic Support is to recruit and enroll the best and brightest, to maximize access to scholarships and other financial aid, and to deliver on the university’s promise of excellence with a vast range of programs designed to build success.

We’re here for all USC students: to challenge them, to support them, to meet their needs, and to provide opportunities for them to help others.
“I credit a lot of my early college success to the support I got from the Gamecock Guarantee and the university’s TRIO Programs. With their help, as long we keep up with our academic requirements, my fellow students and I are assured of a Carolina education that's also affordable.”

Candra Chaisson
the promise of access: affordable education

“The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.”

- Sydney J. Harris

A hurricane brought Candra Chaisson here, but the gale-force winds of her own energy and curiosity will surely propel her much, much farther.

Chaisson, a junior biology major and Ronald E. McNair Fellow, lived in Lafayette, Louisiana, until Hurricane Katrina forced her family to relocate in 2005.

At the University of South Carolina, she’s made herself right at home, completing an internship in Washington, D.C.; serving as director of the Carolina Service Council in 2009; as treasurer for Changing Carolina, an organization that promotes sexual health and safe relationships; and as a tutor for student-athletes and for Upward Bound students.

There’s not a single opportunity Chaisson hasn’t seized, but without the support of the Gamecock Guarantee, the university’s academic and financial support program, her success might not have been possible.

The state’s only program of its kind, the Gamecock Guarantee promises a Carolina education for low-income, first-generation South Carolina college students. These students meet or exceed the university’s academic standards; they simply lack financial resources.

Your support for the Division of Student Affairs and Academic Support is crucial to help us to fulfill our promise of an accessible, affordable education for bright, enthusiastic students who would otherwise be unable to earn a degree.

THE CAMPAIGN for the UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
“University 101 gives students a great sense of togetherness and community since it’s taught in a small group. Taking the seminar made me feel comfortable exploring all that the University of South Carolina has to offer.”

Lindsey Hudepohl
“The right way to begin is to pay attention to the young and make them just as good as possible.”

- Socrates

Lindsey Hudepohl, a 2010 graduate in English, is on course to earn her Master of Arts in teaching in 2012. She credits the University 101 seminar for giving freshmen the confidence to succeed.

U101, as she and others fondly call one of the nation’s most-acclaimed courses for the first-year student experience, delivers an engaging combination of teaching and discussion. Its focus on Carolina’s core mission, service, leadership, and student activities encouraged Hudepohl to become president of her Kappa Delta sorority chapter. She also accepted a job in the student affairs office and served as a U101 peer leader her senior year.

According to Hudepohl’s University 101 instructor, Vice President for Student Affairs Dennis Pruitt,’95, the course succeeds by uniting student experiences with their expectations. Considered indispensable for new students, more than 80 percent of all freshmen register to take U101. “Our students, in preparing to become lifelong learners, discover that every experience can become a learning experience if they approach it the right way,” Pruitt says.

With your support, University 101 and other first-year success programs at Carolina will further increase graduation rates and the quality of each student’s educational experience.
division of student affairs and academic support

“I was able to serve as a peer mentor to students, and it has been amazing to hear that others look up to me and have valued the help that I have provided them. I am thankful for the opportunity.”

Heather Meraw
“The illiterate of the future will not be the person who cannot read. It will be the person who does not know how to learn.”

- Alvin Toffler

At last count, more than 800 peer leaders – students selected and trained to provide educational experiences to fellow students – are serving the University of South Carolina. These peer leaders help students practice classroom lessons and enhance their understanding of concepts and issues, and they do so in a more personal, less intimidating environment than the large lecture hall.

As a sophomore, Heather Meraw successfully applied to be a Supplemental Instruction (SI) leader. She since has been able to help students master chemistry concepts in SI sessions that drew attendance of more than 115 students.

What’s more, research shows that the peer leadership experience – particularly the intensive training and interaction with fellow students – benefits the peer leaders themselves, deepening their knowledge and enhancing their public speaking skills.

Meraw’s experience helped her set academic goals: she’s a chemistry and marine science major aiming for a doctorate in chemistry. But peer education also supports students beyond the classroom. University Ambassadors, resident mentors, health educators, environmental champions, and campus activity organizers all make lasting contributions to students, the campus and the community.

The remarkably effective SI program at USC is in need of expansion to advance the success of our students. Your contribution can help assure the program’s future, continuing to benefit those mentored and those mentoring.
“Last year, our university family contributed more than 350,000 volunteer hours and nearly $1.5 million in donations to organizations and causes that better our communities.”

Harris Pastides, President
“The task of a university is the creation of the future, so far as rational thought and civilized modes of appreciation can affect the issue.”

- Alfred North Whitehead

Where service is concerned, our students rank among the nation’s most giving.

Service-learning courses and volunteer programs such as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, Service Saturdays, and Alternative Break Service Trips benefit local communities, allowing students to put classroom lessons into real-world practice while encouraging students’ civic responsibility and ethical leadership.

Carolina has earned the “Community Engagement” designation from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching – a classification given to only 311 institutions nationwide. USC also has been named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for three years in a row.

“Our university family has a positive, significant and lasting impact on the communities we serve,” Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Jerry Brewer, ’78, ’80, says. Volunteers are involved in hands-on community service, philanthropic fundraising, community-based research, service learning, and advocacy initiatives.

Students are eager for ways to learn, lead and serve. Private support will increase the number of these opportunities and enhance the division’s leadership initiatives to foster civil discourse, integrity and community stewardship.
“Being a USC student involves teamwork, enthusiasm and a commitment to community service that endures long after graduation. For me, it’s very gratifying to see Carolina Cares and other worthwhile projects grow more successful year after year. I’m proud to be a Gamecock, and I treasure that Carolina spirit I first felt so many years ago.”

Steve Cannon
"Education is the transmission of civilization."

- Will Durant

In 1969, freshman class president Steve Cannon, ‘73, ‘76, and his peers in Student Government initiated a new public service project that has not only persisted, but grown considerably in size and scope more than 40 years later. Each November, Carolina Cares unites the efforts of concerned students who adopt area families for the holidays, supplying them with gifts, canned food, and other donations.

Now a partner with the Constantine Cannon LLP law firm of Washington, D.C. and New York, Cannon credits his career and personal success to the leadership and service opportunities provided to him as a Carolina student.

In 1993, the Strom Thurmond-Steve Cannon Carolina Cares Scholarship was established by its namesakes to recognize those with a passion for service. The scholarship is awarded to students who embrace the idea that their college experience should include engaging in programs that move them beyond the classroom into new environments that challenge and inspire.

The desire our students have to serve is far greater than our current ability to staff those opportunities. Private support will expand programs like Alternative Break Service trips, allowing all those who seek it the opportunity to serve others.
“A.C. Moore Elementary is so much a part of its neighborhood that a project making it more beautiful was important to everyone. Carolina service-learning classes and projects like ‘Ripples of Hope’ give our students a chance to work within communities to bring them back to their glory.”

Karen Heid
“To be a teacher in the right sense is to be a learner. I am not a teacher, only a fellow student.”

- Soren Kierkegaard

Our service-learning program is a great example of how the USC Connect initiative – integrating learning within and beyond the classroom – is being put into action.

Karen Heid, PhD, professor of art education, incorporated service learning into her 2010 art evaluation course at USC, pairing her students with youngsters at A.C. Moore Elementary School, who wrote poems and created stepping stones that represented those poems. Volunteers, including graduate students, community artists, and additional faculty, used the stones to create a mosaic garden at A.C. Moore.

Heid says the best part of the project was the expression on the children’s faces when they saw the completed garden. “They knew that they had started with a plain old sidewalk and turned it into something beautiful,” she says.

As for Heid’s USC students, she feels they really understand what service learning is all about. “So many art education students now tell me they are going to incorporate service-learning into their classes when they become teachers,” she says.

Every Carolina’s Promise gift to the Division of Student Affairs and Academic Support represents another vote in favor of service – to the community, to the state, and to humanity as a whole.
“Being a student leader is crucial to the development of leadership skills for tomorrow’s leader. Because of my Carolina experience and education, I could compete and advance to senior officer rank wherein I advised the likes of Secretary of State Colin Powell with confidence and competence.”

Kelvin Stroble
“Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.”

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Leadership skills are honed not only in the classroom, but also in opportunities provided by Student Affairs and Academic Support – from roles in Student Government to leadership positions in fraternity and sorority life or residence life, and even on the field of competition in intramural sports.

And if part of a student’s life is, as Kelvin Stroble, ’86, ’89, puts it, “an academic arena” in which high confidence is necessary to succeed, he represents the triumphs that follow.

Stroble, one of the first African Americans to serve as USC student body president, earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration in 1986. Three years later, with his leadership skills further sharpened in law school, he received a direct naval commission that led to a distinguished career with the U.S. Navy JAG Corps, advising senior military and government officials on a wide range of legal issues.

With more than 5,000 leadership and engagement opportunities available to them, current students can look to alumni like Stroble for real-world examples of the difference those experiences can make.

Leadership initiatives are a campaign priority and increased private support will develop a community of leaders whose impact is measured by the collective work of its fellows.
“As a parent, when you believe in something because you’ve experienced success with it like our family has with a Carolina education, you like to tell people. Our son Michael not only embraced the opportunities Carolina provided him, he jumped in feet first.”

Jim Fraser
“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”

- William Butler Yeats

What would inspire two Carolina parents to canvass their home state of California recruiting future USC students? Jim Fraser, a banking consultant, and his wife, Annie, will tell you it was the opportunity provided to their son, Michael, a Class of 2012 finance major.

Fraser credits his son's top-notch business education at the Darla Moore School of Business and an international study-abroad opportunity that took Michael to Vienna, Prague, Budapest, Salzburg, and other European cities to study international finance and marketing. “Establishing a camaraderie with students the world over, my son will tell you, is the best thing he ever did.”

Rarely are USC students' accomplishments confined to the campus. With career-preparation services, experiential-learning opportunities, and employer recruitment, the Career Center helps them develop skills and find outlets to succeed professionally. And USC study-abroad programs challenge students to increase their cultural knowledge and experience in an increasingly interdependent world.

Whether our students are interning with companies in Washington, D.C. and New York or studying and volunteering in China and Jamaica, private support for Student Affairs and Academic Support programs makes a world of difference.

We promise every new USC student these things: value, support, and opportunity. Your contributions will help us deliver on this promise, allowing students like Michael to make the most of their Carolina experience and encouraging parents like Jim and Annie Fraser to spread the word.
“When deciding between an intern or a part-time employee, we did the math. The cost savings were so obvious that the decision was made for us. What we weren’t prepared for was the quality of the work provided by our intern. She has far exceeded our expectations and surpassed the abilities of previous employees.”
“The great difficulty in education is to get experience out of ideas.”

- George Santayana

In the summer of 2010, the University of South Carolina Career Center’s Community Internship Program (CIP) matched dozens of Carolina students with South Carolina employers for paid internships – a necessity for students preparing for careers.

More than 100 South Carolina employers and 296 university students were eligible applicants to the CIP, which offered matching funds that enabled employers to recruit talented interns even in tight economic times.

“Students with an internship or co-op experience have a significant advantage in the job market over students who do not have experience,” says Tom Halasz, director of the Career Center. “It is imperative that students get experience before graduation.”

In challenging financial times, the program helped students, but employers also benefited from the skills those students brought to their organizations. “Many hired students exclusively from this program, where without the program they wouldn’t have hired interns at all,” says Halasz.

Support from individuals like you makes programs like the CIP possible. The payoff is entry into the workforce for committed, qualified students and a stronger, more vital business environment for the companies that employ them.
“Our every effort is to deliver on the promise we make to our students when they choose Carolina: the University of South Carolina provides an excellent, affordable education; a vibrant environment; unparalleled opportunity within and beyond the classroom; and the tools to succeed as Carolina alumni.”

Dennis Pruitt, VP for Student Affairs, Vice Provost, Dean of Students
The realization of our fondest hope – an unprecedented level of newly endowed scholarships and greater private support for the Gamecock Guarantee – will continue to increase access to a USC education for highly qualified students.

Endowed program support for leadership initiatives will bolster more than 5,000 existing leadership and engagement opportunities, while supporting the president’s key priorities of civil discourse, integrity, and community responsibility.

Unrestricted support for student success initiatives, such as the nationally acclaimed University 101 seminar and Student Success Center, will ensure our students’ high academic achievement while elevating graduation rates. As well, unrestricted support for student engagement and service initiatives will enhance the benefits our students deliver into the communities they serve.

Your gift to Student Affairs and Academic Support through Carolina’s Promise can help these students earn a Carolina degree strengthened by integrated learning experiences. Together, we can ensure that our students are prepared for a lifetime of meaningful leadership and service, continued learning, and responsible citizenship.

To lend your support, please contact:
Director of Development, Student Affairs and Academic Support
www.sa.sc.edu or (803) 777-3236
University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina 29208 USA
to the division of student affairs and academic support

CaroliniasPromise.sc.edu

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