



## A POLITICAL ISSUE

### **American Politickers**

Platform shoes, party dresses and paper cups — South Carolina Political Collections flashes its flare, **page 4**

### **Student Body Politic**

USC undergrads talk political engagement, current events, social issues and party identity, **page 14**

### **Beltway and Beyond**

Washington Semester celebrates 25 years of internships, education and exploration, **page 8**



USC Times is published 10 times a year for the faculty and staff of the University of South Carolina by the Office of Communications & Public Affairs, Wes Hickman, director.

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**Submissions**

Did you know you can submit ideas for future issues of USC Times? Share your story by emailing or calling Craig Brandhorst at craigb1@mailbox.sc.edu, 803-777-3681.



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**FROM THE EDITOR**

# EVERYTHING'S POLITICAL

Let's get one thing straight: it's none of our business how you vote. It's none of our business if you're a Republican, a Democrat, a Libertarian or an independent. It's none of our business whether you vote at all.

OK, scratch that last bit. We actually kind of hope you do vote. We wouldn't have designed that snappy patriotic cover if we didn't. We also wouldn't have included the vintage smock that inspired it — activist Barbara Moxon's homemade "vote dress," which she wore on Election Day every year for several years and which is now behind glass at South Carolina Political Collections — in our tribute to wonderfully quirky political ephemera, "American Politickers," which starts on page 4.

Everything's political? You better believe it. But that doesn't mean we're going to get in anybody's business.

OK, scratch that part, too. We actually kind of did get in our students' business this month — in the interest of understanding political attitudes on campus. We talked to representatives from the College Democrats and College Republicans of South Carolina, we talked to the student body president, and we talked to a few randomly selected students, each of whom agreed to share his or her thoughts on the subject of political engagement at USC for our feature "Student Body Politic," page 14.

We also talked to some of the most politically engaged students and former students we've ever met — the ones who take part in the Washington Semester internship program, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in September with a gala in D.C.

Wait, what? The Washington Semester is 25? We didn't believe it either — until we talked to Heidi Brooks, one of three former students who ventured up to the nation's capital as the inaugural class back in 1991. "Beltway and Beyond" features our conversation with Brooks and several other program alumni whose interest in politics and policy took them from answering phones to calling the shots.

OK, not all of the folks we talked to have reached leadership positions yet. Two of the students we talked to are actually still up there doing their thing — and one just got back to campus in August — but that's even better, isn't it? After hearing about their internships, their interests and, most importantly, their engagement with the political system, we'd vote for them in a heartbeat.

Not that we're endorsing anyone in particular — apart from USC, of course.

Which brings us to this month's End Notes, which features a smattering of campaign buttons provided, once again, by SCPC. Yeah, one party is pretty heavily favored on that page, but that's a consequence of history, not bias. We chose those buttons based on the candidates' affiliation with the university. Party politics had nothing to do with it.

And that's something to remember as you thumb through this issue. At USC Times, we go out of our way to be nonpartisan and to respect everyone's opinion, and that's doubly true when we're writing about politics. Unless we're talking about the university and its programs, we're not in the business of making endorsements, and it's none of our business what you do with your ballot Tuesday, Nov. 8. But that doesn't mean we don't care if you vote. In fact, we hope you will.

See you at the polls,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CAB'.

**CRAIG BRANDHORST**  
MANAGING EDITOR

# You're Welcome



All students, faculty and staff can apply now to be part of the Welcome Table, a series of six interactive discussions this fall exploring race and reconciliation at the University of South Carolina. Dozens of members of the Carolina family will be chosen to participate in an honest and open dialogue about the past, present and future of race relations on our campus. These dialogues happen in small groups over a series of meetings intended to break down the barriers that often exist between people. The Welcome Table is sponsored by the Office of Diversity, and applying to participate is easy. Visit the Office of Diversity's website to learn more.



## A SHOT IN THE ARM

Student Health Services will provide the flu vaccine free to faculty and staff whose primary insurance is the BlueCross BlueShield state health plan. Please bring your insurance card to get the vaccine at no cost. If you are not covered by the state health plan, you can get the flu vaccine for \$20.

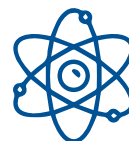
- 10/5** - Flu vaccine kickoff clinic on Davis Field - 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- 10/7** - Student Health Services patio behind the Russell House - 9 a.m. - noon
- 10/10** - Darla Moore School of Business courtyard- 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- 10/11** - School of Law lobby - 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- 10/12** - Student Health Services patio behind the Russell House - 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- 10/18** - Darla Moore School of Business courtyard- 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- 10/19** - Women's Quad (Sim's patio) - 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- 10/26** - Capstone lobby - 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Students, faculty and staff who cannot attend one of the flu clinics can also visit the Thomson Student Health Center between 8 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. Monday-Friday to get the flu vaccine. No appointment needed.



## GOT A GREAT CONCEPT? PROVE IT!

*The Proving Ground* – the startup competition at the University of South Carolina that began in 2010 – is back for its seventh season, offering \$52,000 in prizes to help fund and support new startups. This year's competition marks the second year that recent alumni (graduates since 2011), as well as current students from the university's eight campuses can participate. Business concepts must be submitted to *The Proving Ground* website by Oct. 28. General feedback sessions will be held Sept. 21 and 28. Application details are available on the website. Judges are looking for innovative, scalable ideas with commercial potential. Complete details are available at [uscprovingground.com](http://uscprovingground.com).



## Nominate a Scientist

The South Carolina Academy of Science recently released a call for nominations for the 2017 Governor's Awards for Excellence in Science. The Office of the Vice President for Research will oversee an internal selection process for nominations. This process, initiated in the 2014 award cycle, has resulted in three consecutive years of Governor's Award wins for Carolina faculty members, including a sweep of all categories in 2016. Send nominations on behalf of any faculty member from any system campus to the research office by 5 p.m., Oct. 24.

## STOP, DROP OR ENROLL

October marks the return of open enrollment for all university employees. During this time, you may: enroll or drop dependents from your coverage, change from one health plan to another plan, enroll or drop the vision coverage, enroll or drop the insurance premium feature of MoneyPlus, or elect to participate in the MoneyPlus medical and dependent care spending accounts. You should already have your copy of the Benefits Advantage newsletter published by the Public Employee Benefit Authority. You can make changes to your coverage at [mybenefits.sc.gov](http://mybenefits.sc.gov). Questions? Contact the Benefits Office at **803-777-6650** or email [benefits@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:benefits@mailbox.sc.edu).

# AMERICA

South Carolina Political Collections is home to the papers of 11 governors and more than 25 members of Congress, plus those of notable judges, civil rights activists, state legislators and the League of Women Voters. But the vast holdings at the Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library aren't limited to white papers, correspondence and speeches. They also contain plenty of political ephemera representing both sides of the aisle. In honor of election season, USC Times caught up with Herb Hartsook, SCPC's longtime director, for a bipartisan tour.

BY CRAIG BRANDHORST



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**1: VOTE DRESS BARBARA MOXON**

"Mrs. Moxon was a leader in the League of Women Voters, and she made that dress and wore it every election day, year after year. That has become our most iconic piece of ephemera. People love it. It most recently made an appearance at an Anita Hill party in September."

**2: WOODEN PLAQUE S.C. REP. SOLOMON BLATT**

"Sol Blatt was just a huge USC supporter. He basically was one of a handful of people that ran the whole state. He was the longest-serving speaker of any state legislature. Very fiscally conservative."

**3: HARDHAT GOV. JIM EDWARDS**

"Jim Edwards was the first Republican governor of South Carolina since Reconstruction. In an era when Democrats won pretty much everything in this state, he won election on kind of a fluke — the Democratic candidate had to withdraw just weeks before the election and was replaced on the ticket. But Edwards ended up having a very successful term. He had an interesting life — he was trained as an oral surgeon and had a very successful practice in Charleston, gave that up for politics and ended his career as president of MUSC."

**4: CAMPAIGN BUTTON U.S. SEN. LINDSEY GRAHAM**

"Lindsey Graham is almost unique in the Senate today in that, while he is an ardent Republican, he works



# N POLITICKERS



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across the aisle, he seeks compromise. And unlike a lot of politicians, he seems to thrive on being asked challenging questions and asking challenging questions of his questioner. We started getting his papers while he was in the House and have rarely worked with an office that is so efficiently organized.”

**5: MODEL TRUCK U.S. SEN. ERNEST F. HOLLINGS**

“Senator Hollings was a leading figure in bringing UPS to South Carolina. They’re just a huge employer here. You could not go to a Hollings office and not see a UPS model truck after that business came to South Carolina, so for years we’ve wanted to have one. When we closed out his office we got two or three. This one is one I’ve had in my office since that day.”

**6: BOW TIE AND GLASSES U.S. REP. BUTLER DERRICK**

“Butler enjoyed a very distinguished 20-year tenure in Congress and was known for his tortoiseshell glasses and his bow ties. When he retired and placed his papers here, I asked for a bow tie and a pair of his glasses. He graciously gave us both, and they have been featured in a number of exhibits. Thankfully, he tied the bow tie for us. I certainly don’t know how.”

**7: SILVER YO-YO GOV. JOHN WEST**

“Some years after John West passed away, his widow, Lois, was moving and invited me to pick up some ephemera. I saw the yo-yo and asked if he played with it. She said, “Oh yes, John loved that yo-yo.” It’s silver-plated and was given to him by his staff shortly after he was elected. Lois asked if I like yo-yos, and I

said, “Yes, as a matter of fact I have a small collection of them.” She said, “Well then John would want you to have that.””

**8: DISCO SHOES U.S. REP. BOB INGLIS**

“Bob Inglis had a fundraiser and did a takeoff on ‘Saturday Night Fever.’ He found a baby blue tuxedo and wore these shoes. It’s really rare to see politicians put themselves in that sort of position — it shows a real sense of humor. Now that he’s out of office, he’s a leader in the fight against global warming.”

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**9: PAPER CUP GOV. DONALD RUSSELL**

"The cup came from the inaugural picnic in 1963. It's interesting because that picnic was desegregated, was unusual for the day and drew a lot of attention. I don't actually remember how we got it, but it's wonderful what people save. We benefit greatly from the generosity of folks willing to share their treasures."

**10: COWBOY BOOTS GOV. DICK RILEY**

"Governor Riley got these boots at a governors' conference held in Texas. They were handmade for him, and he wore them every day during the debate in the General Assembly over the penny sales tax for education. Of course, that's the signature accomplishment of his time as governor. When I visited his home one

day I noticed the boots in his closet and he told me the story. He's clearly sentimentally attached to them but was happy to have them here. I told him, 'I will have these on exhibit within an hour of getting back to the office,' and they've been on exhibit ever since."

**11: VOTING MACHINE U.S. REP. JOE WILSON**

"Joe Wilson has the most fascinating office. Every wall, every tabletop, every desktop is covered with materials. Mr. Wilson has just been a terrific friend to us, and he offered us this voting booth that he had gotten and saved, gosh knows when or why or how. We've exhibited it often."

**12: DESK PLATE U.S. SEN. OLIN D. JOHNSTON**

"We find desk and door plates to be nice exhibit items and have perhaps a dozen. None are as beautiful as the handmade Olin Johnston desk plate."

**13: THERAPY DEVICE U.S. SEN. ERNEST F. HOLLINGS**

"When we were closing out Senator Hollings' D.C. office, in the bottom of a cupboard we found this device. He'd had some sort of injury and had to have physical therapy. He could have sent out a staffer and said, 'Get the latest, greatest stainless steel device, don't worry about the expense,' but he's very pragmatic, so he said, 'Cut off a broomstick, get me a piece of rope, I've got some weights at home,' and he made that at no cost to anybody. As soon as I saw it, I





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thought 'I've got to have that.' I like it because it helps to tell Fritz's story. He was not a show horse; he was a work horse."

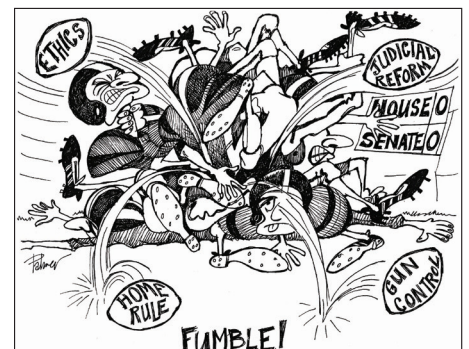
#### 14: EAGLE STATUETTE U.S. REP. FLOYD SPENCE

"When we were founded I wrote every member of the congressional delegation expressing an interest in being the repository for their papers. We got a modest response, but Floyd Spence called personally. He said, 'I got your letter. What can I do for you?' I said, 'Well, we'd love to be the repository for your papers.' He said, 'Done. What else can I do for you?' That was just typical of him. I borrowed the eagle for an exhibit, and when we were returning things I asked if I could keep that one in my office."

#### 15: INK AND NIBS KATE SALLEY PALMER

"Kate is a really talented artist, but she also has that biting wit that all really good editorial cartoonists have. She is happy if the focus of the cartoon looks at it and is upset. Most of her cartoons are here, but some of her cartoons of a national bent are at The Ohio State University, which has an internationally renowned cartoon collection. She was the third woman to be nationally syndicated and got her start drawing cartoons for The Gamecock." **T**

← Kate Salley Palmer used a football metaphor to capture a session marked by gridlock in the state General Assembly.



# BELTWAY & BEYOND

*THE WHITE HOUSE, THE CAPITOL, THE MONUMENTS AND MUSEUMS AND CHERRY BLOSSOMS IN SPRING — WASHINGTON, D.C. IS ONE HECK OF A DRAW, NO MATTER YOUR POLITICS. BUT IF YOU'RE AN AMBITIOUS COLLEGE STUDENT AND BUDDING POLITICAL JUNKIE, IT CAN BE A GREAT DEAL MORE. JUST ASK AN ALUMNUS OF SOUTH CAROLINA'S WASHINGTON SEMESTER PROGRAM.*

*BY CRAIG BRANDHORST*

**T**he Washington Semester Program, which celebrated its 25th anniversary with a gala in the nation's capital Sept. 28, provides students with fulltime, semester-long paid internships at congressional offices, federal agencies, nonprofits and other D.C.-based organizations. It is administered through the South Carolina Honors College but, as a central part of its mission, is open to students from different institutions around the state.

The 10 to 15 students who participate each semester live under one roof, just a block from the U.S. Supreme Court, and attend evening classes as a group — one on current events; another, taught by adjunct instructor of theater **Korey Rothman**, that gives them a front row seat and backstage pass to one of the nation's most vibrant theater scenes. Five times each semester students also attend classes led by USC adjunct instructor and former Democratic National Committee Chair **Don Fowler**.

"It gives students a better understanding of the big picture — how government works — and they're active participants in the process," says **Julie Hutt**, director of internships at the Honors College. "When they get there, they have that kind of aha moment when they realize that being one person involved in this process can have an impact. That is invaluable."

Not surprisingly, the program is highly competitive. Students have to have the grades, of course, but they also go through an intensive interview process conducted by USC's federal legislative liaison,

**Steve Beckham**, representatives from South Carolina's legislative delegation and the Honors College.

"Obviously, we're dealing with engaged, academically high-achieving students," says Beckham, who helps place students in appropriate offices once they have been selected. "We look for things that benefit either their educational goals or their career goals. We ask what they're interested in."

And what they're interested in varies as widely as their personal politics, though oftentimes the experience helps shape both.

"It helps them fine tune what they want to do after college," says **Beth Hutchison**, who helped build the Washington Semester as program director for 11 years before switching roles at the Honors College. "You can't possibly know about all the different jobs that are out there. This experience helps expose them to those opportunities."

Indeed, the only constant seems to be the program's impact on the students' education and, in many case, their future success.

"I love watching what they do after they graduate," says Rothman, who also serves as a point-person in D.C. "So many of them come back to D.C., some to the offices where they interned. They get the D.C. bug and they make the contacts to come back. We have had students who have had remarkable success."





## KATIE SCHWICHTENBERG

SENIOR, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND HISTORY

INTERNSHIP: SPRING 2016, OFFICE OF SEN. DICK DURBIN

### What led you to Washington Semester?

I found out about Washington Semester through the Capstone Scholars program. They had this series when I was a freshman called Capstone Conversations, and I saw on the calendar that they were having an info session. Because of that Capstone Conversation, the Washington Semester was on my radar from freshman year. As a political science major, I've always had a goal to go to Washington as soon as I graduate. That's still my goal.

### Do you know specifically what you want to do when you get there?

I've always seen myself as a public servant, particularly for the federal government. Back in my AP government class when we were learning about the executive branch, the cabinets, Congress — that's where I envisioned myself. That's the big leagues, that's where all the action happens.

Freshman year, I was focused on State Department work, and then as I started taking more classes I picked up a second concentration in domestic policy, and I started to think more about the legislative side of things, which leads to what I ended up doing in D.C., working in Sen. Durbin's office.

### So you were able to work for a senator from your home state?

After you find out that you're in the program, you sit down with Steve Beckham and go over what you want to do. I'm personally a Democrat, and I know most of the members of the South Carolina delegation are not, which isn't a problem, they're all great people, but I would much rather work for a Democrat.

And it was an incredible experience. Sen. Durbin has been my senator since two years after I was born. He's someone I admire and look up to. I took every opportunity to go to his committee meetings, his speeches — just to see him engage his constituents. The first time I met the senator we had the Stanley Cup at his office because the Chicago Blackhawks were the champs. Even just getting my first intern badge — it says "Office of Senator Durbin," and you find yourself just staring at it.

### What did you do on a typical day?

I'm sure everyone who works on the Hill would tell you, there's no typical day. As an intern, you do whatever is thrown at you. I wrote memos, answered phones — I babysat the Stanley Cup for a day. I read the CRS reports — Congressional Research Service — and was constantly going to as many briefings as possible, trying to soak it all in because it's such a limited time that you're there. I went to a meeting on the National Flood Insurance program, something that doesn't sound like anything I'd ever want to do, but it ended up being one of the most interesting conversations. And I led a lot of tours, which was one of my favorite parts of the job, just engaging with constituents. At peak times, like spring break, I was doing two tours a day.

### Is it as hectic as everyone says?

On the Hill, things change at a moment's notice, like with the death of Justice Scalia. There's all of a sudden some last minute action, people running around — something happens and everyone reacts. And it's that way in D.C. in general. On the metro everyone's always running late, things are constantly moving.

The shift from a college lifestyle to working 9 to 6 every day was completely different, and now readjusting to the college lifestyle is funny. I definitely started to miss Columbia toward the end of my time in D.C. — I mean, most of my friends are back here, and I'm glad to see all my favorite professors again — but I was sad to leave D.C. I'm definitely a political nerd. My first day I was running something and I got in the elevator with Tim Scott. I thought, "Oh good, this is one of the ones I recognize!" I was like, "Good morning, senator! Go Cocks!"

### How about the non-political stuff, the cultural aspects of D.C.?

The theater class was really interesting. D.C. has a really vibrant theater scene. We got to see a lot of really high quality productions. My favorite was a play called "All the Way with LBJ." And we got to see a lot of things I would have never gone to see, personally, but that ended up being really cool, like a completely wordless production of "Romeo and Juliet."

### And you stayed up there for the summer, too, right?

One of my friends from the house was working in Congressman Clyburn's office, and when I was on my lunch break, I would go over there and hang out and got to know the staff in that office. I gave my resume to the internship coordinator and said, "Hey, I don't have any plans for the summer. If you need any interns, I'd be happy to stay." The last day of my internship with Sen. Durbin I got a call asking if I wanted to work in Congressman Clyburn's office.

I really fell in love with the legislative process, but I'm keeping my options open. Washington isn't the kind of place where you know what you'll be doing next year necessarily. You pretty much have to be up there ready to go at the drop of a hat, so after graduation I just want to go up there. I want to be in D.C. actively searching for something.



## SETH ISMAIL

**JUNIOR, ECONOMICS AND GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT**

INTERNSHIP: FALL 2016, OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN JIM CLYBURN

**You're interning with Congressman Jim Clyburn. Where are some of the other people in your house stationed?**

Not everybody works for the S.C. delegation. We have one person working for Mark Sanford, one person working for Trey Gowdy and one person for Lindsey Graham. There are 10 of us in all — three from College of Charleston, one from Lander and the other six are from USC.

**Did you know any of your housemates before you got up there?**

I did not, but we all get along super well. And the program is really good at getting you acquainted with D.C. When we first got here we did scavenger hunts throughout the entire city, all day. It was really fun. And we did a lot of good bonding activities. We went to Nationals game. We did a lot.

**What attracted you to the program?**

I was always pretty involved in politics — I've been involved with College Democrats, I worked at the State House for the Democratic Caucus — but since I'm a business major, it was always kind of on the back burner. I wanted a semester where I can, one, just be

a politics junkie, and two, see if living in D.C. is something that I would like. Also, I just wanted to get out of my comfort zone a little bit.

**What's the internship like?**

Some days you're answering phones, but you could also be doing legislative research. That's my favorite thing. I also love getting to go to hearings. Jim Clyburn just hosted an event for the Congressional Black Caucus, and they had a choir for that, so I helped with event support and showed them around. A lot of us give Capitol tours, too.

I'm learning so much. If I'm at the office, I can pull up a hearing or I can talk to somebody on staff. Everybody on staff was here during all these crazy times — during the Affordable Care Act debate, or the fast-track TPP vote, or they were here when John Boehner retired — and they have great stories. Somebody on our staff, Craig Link, actually started in the Washington Semester, doing exactly what I'm doing. It has tangible effects.

**You're up there during a presidential election — and a pretty contentious one. What's the vibe right now?**

First of all, everybody in Washington is super-informed. That whole Beltway knowledge is something — I got in a taxi one time and the driver started talking about Strom Thurmond. Or one time I ended up talking to strangers about Dodd-Frank, the Wall Street reform act. I was having coffee with one of my roommates, and two people came up to our table and started contributing to our conversation. Everybody's passionate and enthusiastic about politics. When everybody's passionate and involved in their cause, it makes for a very interesting town.

**What are your long term plans?**

What a question! [Laughing] The cool thing about D.C. is that you can network a lot. I've been talking to people about hopefully interning at a government relations firm or a consulting firm. The goal, if everything works out, is to work in the private sector, or to do

a volunteer program like Teach for America before I go to graduate school.



## HEIDI BROOKS

**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, SCHOTT FOUNDATION FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION**

INTERNSHIP: FALL 1991, OFFICE OF SEN. ERNEST F. HOLLINGS

**You were part of the inaugural class back in 1991. What was the program like then?**

It was the first year, so it was pretty unformed. It was me, Lee Royal — who I just reconnected with after 25 years — and a guy named David O'Berry. Lee was working in Strom Thurmond's office. David worked for a representative, I don't remember which one. I worked for Sen. Ernest Hollings.

We ended up, the three of us, living in a two-bedroom, two-bathroom apartment in Alexandria, and we would usually commute in Lee's 10-year-old BMW. We would listen to Howard Stern every morning, and we had heated debates. [Laughing] We didn't agree on anything!

**So what were you guys arguing about?**

Lee was Republican, and I was a Democrat. I think David was also a Democrat but maybe a little more conservative. So we just had really lively debates. But there was no name calling. It was never disrespectful. We had one or two really big disagreements that we had to work



through, but I have fond memories of that time because I love to debate. It's good to know what other people think, especially if they think differently from you.

**What was it like working in Sen. Hollings' office?**

Great! I just had coffee with David Rudd, who was legislative director and went on to be chief of staff for Senator Hollings. But in the '90s it was a different era. Every time has its challenges, but people did talk across the aisle then. There was much more of a can-do approach to Congress. Sen. Hollings was always very engaging and charming, and he was very thoughtful about his positions.

**What did you do on a daily basis?**

There was a pecking order. There was a guy who was a driver but he also answered the phone. If the senator needed something on the floor, I might take it. I got to sit in on some meetings. I was there during the Clarence Thomas hearings, so I got to see Anita Hill

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***"During my tenure in Congress I have hosted over 50 students through the South Carolina Washington Semester program. These interns have played, and continue to play, a vital role in my office. The program produces productive experiences for talented students who attend South Carolina schools. Their ties to the state enhance and enrich our experiences with each other."***  
**- CONGRESSMAN JIM CLYBURN**

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testify. I don't think I fully understood the enormity of it, though. It was all very new and exciting.

Some people are dead certain they want to go into politics, but I wasn't. I enjoyed walking the halls of power, but what I really wanted to do was move to D.C. I fell in love with D.C., and I moved to D.C. to go grad school at the Johns Hopkins School of International Studies right after USC. I'm fortunate. I had a lot of

huge formative experiences in college, and each of those experiences helped shape who I am. Trying new things in places where I didn't know anybody whet my appetite to try more new things. It helped me realize who I am and taught me that, "Yeah, I can do this."

**And now you're in Cambridge, Mass., with the Schott Foundation. How did you wind up there?**

I spent the first decade of my career in international development in Africa and Southeast Asia, and after a few years became frustrated by the slow pace of change. I concluded that the way to get people out of poverty is for them to have jobs, and business is the easiest way to accomplish that. I didn't know enough about business so I went to business school. After that, I worked for a strategy consulting firm called Bridgespan Group that spun off of Bain and Company, the management consulting firm. Then I got in to philanthropy and worked at John Hancock and at Citizen's Bank. So I've been at the intersection of business and community for more than a decade.

But as much as I enjoyed trying to really balance business objectives and the ways that community work could also enhance those, I wanted to be in a leadership position at an organization that was mission-driven. I found the Schott Foundation, which is dedicated to ensuring that public education lives up to its promise of opportunity for all, because it really is the cornerstone of American democracy. We work with large foundations to accelerate the impact of grassroots advocates pushing to end the school to prison pipeline, improve discipline policies, ensure fair funding, ensure student access and access to early childhood education.



**GREG FERRANTE**

**CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, GLOBAL POLICY AND ADVOCACY DIVISION, BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION; CHAIR OF THE AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA**

**INTERNSHIP: SPRING 1996, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**How did you end up doing the Washington Semester?**

I was a biology major and a minor in chemistry and then had a separate minor in government and international affairs. I was really interested in the intersection of policy and health, and so to me, being in D.C. was just an opportunity to see policymaking happen, to experience it up close. That was my primary driver, and then I was looking at different opportunities to see something outside of South Carolina.

**Take us back. What was going on in D.C. that semester?**

We moved into the house around 2 p.m., and at 4 p.m. a blizzard started, and we got something like 20 inches of snow. We had no idea what we'd gotten ourselves into. Sen. Connie Mack lived next door at the time, and he literally helped us dig out. It was a great opportunity to see public service at work — the senator from the great state of Florida helps a group of South Carolina students dig out of a snowstorm! It was also the year of the government shutdown. I think it had just

happened when we got there, and they were debating if there would be another round.

**Tell us about your internship.**

I worked at the Department of Education under Secretary Dick Riley. I worked for the senior adviser on budget, and if I recall correctly, I wrote the department's first white paper on what its website could be and why people would use it, which is kind of an amazing thing to think about in retrospect. Kind of dates me a little bit, doesn't it?

**People often talk about the opportunity to network through programs like this. Did you find that to be the case?**

At the time that I was there it was only Carolina students, I think, but there were people with a lot of different personalities and backgrounds, and our internships were wildly different. Some people were on the Hill, some were in the administration, some were in the private sector, so it was a good opportunity to meet folks. I'm still really good friends with a couple of them.

**In terms of personal development, what did you get out of the experience?**

It was my first real exposure to senior level policymakers, and to understanding government procedure. It opened some questions in my mind that led to where I am today. At the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, I chair the audit and finance committee, and in my day job at the foundation I try to make sure that other governments also understand the real and positive development impact that organizations like the Global Fund can create — and that they will be able to support it as well — and that in recipient countries they have effective policies in place that will allow the delivery of health programs to marginalized populations — sex workers, intravenous drug users and the like — to help save lives.



**KIMBERLY MEDINA**

**SENIOR, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

**INTERNSHIP: FALL 2016, MIL MUJERES LEGAL SERVICES**

Ever since I was a child I've known that I want to be an attorney and, specifically, practice immigration law, but I had a narrow vision of it. Now I'm learning that there are many different things included within immigration law.

I'm a daughter of immigrants, so I know the legal battle that people face to be in this country. So many people that I know are either undocumented or at some point in their life have been undocumented. I thought that here in D.C. there would be more organizations dedicated to this cause and, fortunately enough, I was able to find an organization that specifically works with the undocumented population.

**What does your internship entail?**

We primarily work on new visa cases for undocumented victims of crime. One of the first stages is to request a police report, proof that the crime occurred how the victim stated. So I've just been talking to police departments and sheriff's offices across the country to get these reports because they are essential to these victims' applications. Sometimes the victims themselves have a police report number, but the cases are old or they don't remember

exactly when the crime happened. Sometimes it's hard, but you're helping someone, so that makes it worth it.

**What about life in the city? Had you ever been to D.C. before?**

No, I had never been to D.C. I take the metro to work every single day, and that's something new for me. And then being car-less, you have to walk everywhere. That's nice, too. In Columbia or in Myrtle Beach, where I'm from, you get everywhere by car. It's nice that on the way to work I pass by the White House and so many different things. Every day you see something new. This Thursday, we're going to see our first play, so that should be fun. I've never actually seen a play like this before. That will be something new, as well.

**How about life in the house? What's it like living with so many other students under one roof?**

We all have pretty busy schedules so we come home, talk about our days. We had a debate in class on Monday, and we all agreed that it got pretty intense, and a little heated, but once we got home everything was fine. That's something we've talked about. We try to leave everything we debate in class in class, so when we come home we get along. I'm kind of not looking forward to my presentation on immigration for that reason, but I'm going to do it anyway!





## MEGHAN HICKMAN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ENGENUITYSC

INTERNSHIP: FALL 2005, OFFICE OF SEN. LINDSEY GRAHAM

### What led you to apply for the Washington Semester?

It was one of the reasons I applied to the Honors College and why I came to USC. I saw it as my study abroad opportunity, and for a little girl from the Upstate of South Carolina, it was essentially like doing study abroad.

It was without question the most intense interview I'd ever been in. But it's intentionally intense because they want to test your ability to handle yourself in a Capitol Hill office where you'll be faced with everything imaginable. I walked out convinced that I had blown it, but I not only made it into the program, I was selected to be in Sen. Graham's office. In terms of my professional life and my personal life, it completely changed my trajectory.

### What was going on in D.C. at that time? What were the hot button issues?

It was just before immigration started to heat up, but it's more the experiences and less the politics that I remember. I got to go on the set of Meet the Press shortly before Tim Russert passed away. I remember being around the senator, being entranced by Tim Russert and knowing right then and there, "This has to be a part of my future. I've got to make this a part of my journey."

### You describe yourself as a bit of a political junkie. How far back does that go?

Probably around sixth grade. I was that kid who was class president every year. I was student body president my senior year of high school, I did freshman council my first year at Carolina and then continued to be active in student government at Carolina my entire way through, so the idea of getting to spend a semester not only in the hotbed of political activity, nationally and internationally, but to do it in a format where I got work experience and stayed on track academically, was a no-brainer.

***"South Carolina Washington Semester Program students have played an important role in my office for years. They are articulate, bright, professional, motivated, and the SCWSP program provides them real-world experience working in the halls of Congress. - U.S. SEN. LINDSEY GRAHAM***

### What did you do on an average day in Sen. Graham's office?

As an intern, your job is to make sure that the rest of the office functions as smoothly and efficiently as possible. Whatever anyone needs, whenever they need it, your job is to attend to that, to support them, and to try to remove as many obstacles as possible so that the office can do the service to the constituents and the work of the senator.

I was on a public relations track and I was a political science minor, so I got to specialize a little bit. I got to go to press interviews, media events, radio spots, but the office was really good at giving interns the chance to see every facet. It was about exposure, understanding what it takes to operate a congressional office, what it takes to attend to the needs of four million constituents across the state of South Carolina, and every day was different, which I loved.

### You're up there with a dozen other students and everybody's got their own political views. Did it ever get contentious?

Sure, it absolutely did, and that was one of the richest parts of that experience. It forces you to get comfortable disagreeing with people, supporting your position, and, ultimately, one of two things happens: you get confident with the way you think or, more importantly, you start to question the way you think. That's a really healthy thing. That exchange of ideas, the difference in political philosophy, the opportunities to discuss and debate — that's where the real learning happens. And that's one of the things that the program encourages.

Frankly, it's that collegiality that's missing from the political world right now. Members of Congress can disagree — they can have divisive debates — but you know what? They don't have to go back and live in the same house, they don't have to eat meals with each other, they don't have to interact with each other outside of what happens during debate. We're missing that ability to develop a relationship with someone you might vehemently disagree with but who, ultimately, you respect as a human being and as a friend.

### Now that you're no longer in D.C., do you still draw on those formative experiences?

Working in D.C. in my early 20s, where I was thrust into situations that required enormous maturity, taught me that age doesn't matter, gender doesn't matter. That's what enabled me to step into a role running a nonprofit where the board consists of the president of the largest research institution in the state, the mayor of the city, elected officials from the region and CEOs of major companies. Stepping into that role as a 30-year-old female could have been incredibly intimidating — and in some cases it was — but those experiences early in my career taught me to lean on my skills and abilities, the things that I was uniquely qualified to do. It gave me the confidence to handle whatever comes my way. **T**



To learn more about the Washington Semester, visit [schc.sc.edu/academics/internships/washington-semester](http://schc.sc.edu/academics/internships/washington-semester).



**STUDI**

**BODY**

**POLIT**







# MENT

# IC

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*POLITICS ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES RUN THE GAMUT. AT USC, AS AT ANY OTHER LARGE STATE UNIVERSITY, STUDENTS IDENTIFY AS FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE BUT SOCIALLY LIBERAL, SOCIALLY CONSERVATIVE BUT FISCALLY LIBERAL AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN. WE HAVE ROCK-RIBBED REPUBLICANS AND DIE-HARD DEMOCRATS. WE ALSO HAVE STUDENTS WHO DON'T WANT TO LABEL THEMSELVES AT ALL. MEANWHILE, THE LEVEL OF POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT AMONG OUR STUDENTS RANGES FROM "WHY BOTHER?" TO "ROCK THE VOTE!"*

**BY DAN COOK, PAGE IVEY AND CHRIS HORN**





## POTHoles AND PARTY POLITICS

*College Democrat seeks common ground*

For **Matthew Cauthen**, politics is about practical things like growing the economy, reducing college debt, improving employment opportunities after graduation — and fixing potholes.

Before he became president of the College Democrats of South Carolina, Cauthen was an intern for the Democratic Caucus at the State House and got an insider's view of the legislative process, which included lots of road bills.

"I'm always annoyed that there's not a transportation bill that I like," says the senior political science major. "We all drive, and the roads need fixing, and the storm drains in Five Points need attention. Those things affect everyone."

Cauthen calls himself a left-leaning moderate Democrat, but he acknowledges that his concerns cross party lines. His read on the USC student body is that political party affiliation isn't a big deal: "Most say they lean toward a certain ideology. They'll say, 'I'm not necessarily a Republican or a Democrat, but I lean a certain way.'"

This year's eventful primaries, caucuses and campaigning haven't changed Cauthen's perspectives on politics. But they have reaffirmed what

he thinks: that the person with the biggest bank account usually wins and that third-party candidates usually don't matter much.

The election year buzz has attracted students' attention — more students are coming to the College Democrats meetings, according to Cauthen — but the senior, who plans to attend law school after graduation, is uncertain what that boost in attendance means. "I'm not sure if they're actually interested in voting," he says.

To inspire students to go to the polls, the College Democrats might join with the College Republicans to watch the presidential debates and perhaps host a joint viewing party on election night.

And while many of the issues that matter most to students — racism, sexual assault, the environment — don't always get a lot of coverage in the media or attention from the major political parties, Cauthen believes USC has done a good job addressing them, starting with President Harris Pastides.

"He seems to make sure the administration is open to hearing issues, and there are things they are trying to do to make it a more inclusive campus," Cauthen adds. "It's one of the better things about this university, in that they care about what students think."



**ANDREW BIRT, 19**

SOPHOMORE, POLITICAL SCIENCE  
BOSTON, MASS.

**How engaged are you in politics?** *I'd say very engaged. I'm actually going to work right now at the State House. I'm working for a state senator.*

**Do you and your friends have political conversations?** *Some don't really like it when I kind of go on, but yes, I do.*

**What are some of the most important issues to you in this campaign?** *I would probably say economic inequality, that's a pretty big issue. Campaign finance is another big one.*

**Do you share your parents' political views?** *Half. My mom is a Democrat, and my dad is a Republican.*

**How much of a buzz is there on campus about the presidential election?** *I'd say it's pretty low. There are a lot more Trump supporters here than I am used to anywhere else, but I'd say it's pretty average — no more politically active than any other college campus, I guess.*

**Are you engaged in political or social causes outside of the current presidential race?** *I don't necessarily do anything about it, but I follow the issues and I pay attention to what's going on. Other than that, not really.*

**Do you go to things on campus, like when speakers come through?** *I do, yeah. I saw Howard Dean last year. I stood in line for the Bernie Sanders rally, but I couldn't get in. Oh well.*

**How has this election cycle affected your attitude about politics or the political system in this country?** *The establishment is kind of rigged in a certain way. When the DNC emails, I thought that was pretty telling of how the party actually felt about outside candidates who they didn't necessarily want.*

**NANDHA MELAPPALAYAM, 18**

FRESHMAN, BUSINESS  
CARY, N.C.

**Are you and your friends engaged in politics? Do you talk about politics?** *Not really. I can't vote; I wasn't born here. I'm not a U.S. citizen. My friends sometimes talk about it, but a lot of them have differing opinions so it usually devolves into something that is less political — 'You're stupid, you're wrong.' So they try to talk about it, but it usually doesn't go anywhere.*

**Are you following the election closely this year? If so, how early did you start paying attention?** *Yes, in the primaries, but not when there were like 50 Republicans running, but when the debates started happening and the pool narrowed down.*

**What are the issues that are most important to you?** *I've been following a lot of stuff on immigration reform. Immigration reform is like the big thing, from Mexico and from other places.*

**Do you feel like there's much buzz on campus about the election?** *I haven't heard a lot of political stuff going on. People are encouraging everyone to register to vote in N.C., but other than that I haven't heard much about it.*

**STUDENT VOTING RATE BY GENDER****2012 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION**

**48.1%** Women

**38.4%** Men

**2014 MIDTERM ELECTION**

**18.5%** Women

**15.3%** Men

**HOW USC VOTING RATES COMPARE****2012 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION**

**45.7%** USC

**46.9%** All Institutions

**2014 MIDTERM ELECTION**

**17.9%** USC

**18.8%** All Institutions



## THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

*College Republican talks Millennials' money*

**Chandler Lessen** pays attention to dollars and cents, his own and the nation's. His No. 1 issue is the national debt, with what he calls "the student debt crisis" close behind.

"Unless we have someone figure out solutions soon, it's going to be problematic for our generation and for our kids," says Lessen, a political science senior and president of the College Republicans of South Carolina.

The burgeoning levels of student debt have been compounded by the federal government's foray into the student loan business, he says, and by the idea that everyone should go to college.

Lessen got interested in politics as a high school senior at Trinity Byrnes Collegiate School in Darlington, S.C. He followed the national election closely that year, watching the Mitt Romney-Barack Obama debates and the election night returns. The next year, he enrolled at USC and began serving as treasurer of the College Republicans chapter, a position he held through his junior year.

"I'm all in with the Republican party," says Lessen, 21, a registered voter. "But I'm more libertarian leaning — more liberal on social issues and conservative on fiscal issues.

"My parents are more right-leaning on social issues than I am, which is just part of the generational divide. There's a more diverse ideology among younger GOP voters than the older ones."

Lessen is chagrined about the amount of political indifference he perceives among fellow students — you should be paying attention, he says, because "politics is all about how your money gets spent" — but he's even more concerned that Millennials as a group seem to be getting ignored.

"This year, the younger generation, the Millennials, will total 20 percent of voters, but it seems we're being left out of the equation with issues that are important to us," he says.

Though this is only the second general election that he's paid close attention to, Lessen recognizes the singular nature of this election year.

"It's opened my eyes to the fact that money is not everything. Look at how Jeb Bush was decimated," he says. "This year has brought out a much different crowd to the primaries on both sides."





### EMMANUEL LEWIS, 21

SENIOR, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS  
ALEXANDRIA, VA.

**Would you say you and your friends are pretty engaged in politics?** Yes, we all have taken an interest — not only in this election, but in the whole political process. It's an interesting time, at least this specific election. A lot of my friends were Bernie supporters, so we kind of wanted a change of voice for us. For me, I'm kind of 'anybody but Trump' at this point, so if that's Hillary Clinton, it's Hillary Clinton. If it's Gary Johnson, it's Gary Johnson. Wish he knew more about Aleppo.

**So, you keep up with what's going on in the world?** A lot of people like to have a voice without having any background knowledge. I used to be one of those people, and then I realized how dumb I sounded when people were like, 'That's actually not true at all,' and you're like, 'It isn't? My bad.' So I just try to keep informed about what's going on in the world. I've seen some horror videos of other college students who don't understand what's going on in the world and I can't be one of those guys.

**So what was your wakeup call?** There was an organization I got involved with on campus, a business-professional organization. A lot of the people were well traveled, and one of the well-traveled, well educated, passionate leaders, gave some advice, which was, "If you want to be like this, if you want to grow into a person who is like this" — I was a young

freshman at the time — "you need to know what's going on in the world, because there are a lot of moving pieces." Not all of it is going to make total sense to you, but at least having a basic understanding will make you a heck of a lot smarter than 75 to 90 percent of the people out there.

**You said you were a Bernie supporter?** I'm actually not; a lot of my friends were. I'm moderate. I fall with whoever's policies I best align with at the moment. My dad has consistently pushed me to be a voter. It doesn't matter if it's a sheriff's election or a postman's election — you go vote, because if you don't then somebody else will have that voice for you.

**Are there particular issues in this election cycle that matter more than others to you?** There are a lot of things that are really interesting to me: how are we going to tackle the environment, how are we going to tackle the Middle East. A lot of the disruptions have been the result of outside influences — specifically outside Western influences. Just seeing the hands we've played and the roles we've played. So, there is a question of how we are going to take responsibility for that and if we are going to take responsibility for that. There are a lot of issues that worry me. It's not just "build the wall."

**Do you relate to any particular party?** No, I don't. I like to take a look at the candidates, what they represent, who they represent, who they are as people. Those are the most important things to me. It might not be to everyone, but I like to feel like I have some type of connection.



## STUDENT VOTING AND REGISTRATION RATES

### 2012 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

**74.3%** Registration Rate

**45.7%** Voting Rate

### 2014 MIDTERM ELECTION

**67.1%** Registration Rate

**17.8%** Voting Rate

## STUDENT VOTING RATE BY RACE

### 2012 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

**19.7%** Asian

**35.7%** American Indian/  
Alaska Native

**67.7%** Black

**32.4%** Hispanic

**31.8%** Native Hawaiian/  
Pacific Islander

**44.1%** White

**42.0%** 2 or More Races

**55.4%** Unknown

### 2014 MIDTERM ELECTION

**4.1%** Asian

**10.1%** American Indian/  
Alaska Native

**32.2%** Black

**11.6%** Hispanic

**3.3%** Native Hawaiian/  
Pacific Islander

**16.1%** White

**13.8%** 2 or More Races

**21.4%** Unknown



## POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT REPORT CARD

*Student Government president talks apathy, commitment*

**Michael Parks** loves politics — the speeches, the debates, the election night returns — and that’s to be expected. After all, he’s USC’s student body president. But the senior finance major worries that some of his classmates aren’t similarly engaged in the political process, particularly during the current presidential election.

“I’d say I’m underwhelmed with how in tune our students are,” Parks says. “You hear almost every single day, ‘Well, I might just sit this election cycle out,’ or ‘I don’t like either of the candidates. I’m not going to vote.’”

He rattles off several possible explanations: party politics have become too polarized, Congress has been gridlocked for years, the candidates seem mired in controversy. Add in the hot-button social issues of the day, and he thinks many students choose to sit on the sidelines rather than enter the scrum.

“Social issues are just spicier,” he says. “People get more upset debating a social issue, whether it be marriage rights or the life of an unborn child, than they do debating economic policy or even foreign diplomacy. Granted, those can get heated, too, but social issues are like a dynamite stick just ready to blow.”

And he gets the frustration; what he doesn’t get is the apathy — especially with so much at stake.

“Every election, both candidates are flawed, this year, maybe more so than usual,” he says. “However, at the end of the day, the election that takes place in November will impact my generation more than any other generation.”

Parks points to health care and the economy as two issues that should concern his peers — he also takes the long view, even mentioning retirement — but he worries that many students don’t make enough of an effort to educate themselves on current events and the candidates’ positions.

“There certainly are outliers who are reading Politico every morning, reading the New York Times, reading whatever print journalism they can get their hands on — luckily we do have plenty of those students,” he says. “But I would say the vast majority of students only read headlines.”

At the campus level, Parks is more optimistic when it comes to student engagement — and his presidential agenda reflects that. Among his signature initiatives is a joint effort with counterparts in student government at Clemson called the Higher Education Report Card. The idea is to research the higher education voting records of all state legislators during the last session and identify those who have voted in the interest of higher education — and those who haven’t.

“We’re not speaking on behalf of the university, per se, but we’re speaking on behalf of the students,” he says. “And if there’s any way we kind find to hold legislators who ultimately affect the student experience at Carolina accountable, we want to do that.”



**WILL GIDDES, 20**

JUNIOR, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS  
RALEIGH, N.C.

**Would you say you and your friends are pretty engaged in politics?** *There's a degree of understanding, but especially with this election cycle, there's a degree of not wanting to follow the dumpster fire.*

**Do you and your friends have conversations about this race or about politics in general?** *I'd say so. Maybe not as in depth as in years prior, but there is a discussion about social issues.*

**Are those the issues that are most important to you?** *To me personally, no. But with my group of friends being diverse on the political spectrum, that seems to come up the most. A lot of people our age don't have a great understanding of economics, so usually the focus shifts toward the social issues.*

**When you say the social issues, what in particular are you talking about?** *It can be anything from Colin Kaepernick not standing for the national anthem to a bathroom discussion — I'm from North Carolina, we have the HB2 — or Hillary not being able to stand upright.*

**Are there particular issues that are really important to you?** *For this election year especially, I'm focused more on who is the best representative for America. When it hits the fan, who do I want leading my country?*

*Right now, I don't have a great answer to that. I'd say probably the most important issue to me is the economy; less so the social issues.*

**Do you feel like the things you care about are being talked about by the media and the candidates?** *With the election being what it is, I don't think they are talking about anything that people want to talk about. It's he said, she said; Donald did this, Hillary didn't do this. There is so little focus on policy platforms from the media that there is almost no general understanding of the candidates.*

**Do you identify with either major party — or any other party?** *I identify as a Republican, but that doesn't necessarily define me. I have individual beliefs on certain issues.*

**Do you share your parents' political views?** *The short answer is yes. Being in college, you do get a different perspective on things. They are at the age where you start moving more toward the right. My parents were registered Democrats in the 1990s, but now they are more right wing.*

**SARAH JOHNSON, 21**

SENIOR, FILM-MAKING AND CHEMISTRY  
BELTON, GA.

**Would you say that you and your friends are pretty engaged in politics?** *Not really.*

**Is there any particular issue in this campaign that you are keyed in on?** *Definitely gender equality.*

**So, what about that?** *The idea of people thinking that a woman wouldn't necessarily be a good president.*

**You feel like Hillary Clinton has been treated unfairly as a woman?** *I would definitely say there's some bias. I don't know if some of the things that have been said would have been said if she had been a man. I think it's really ingrained in our culture, so it's hard to see whether it's who she is as a person or it's because she's a woman.*

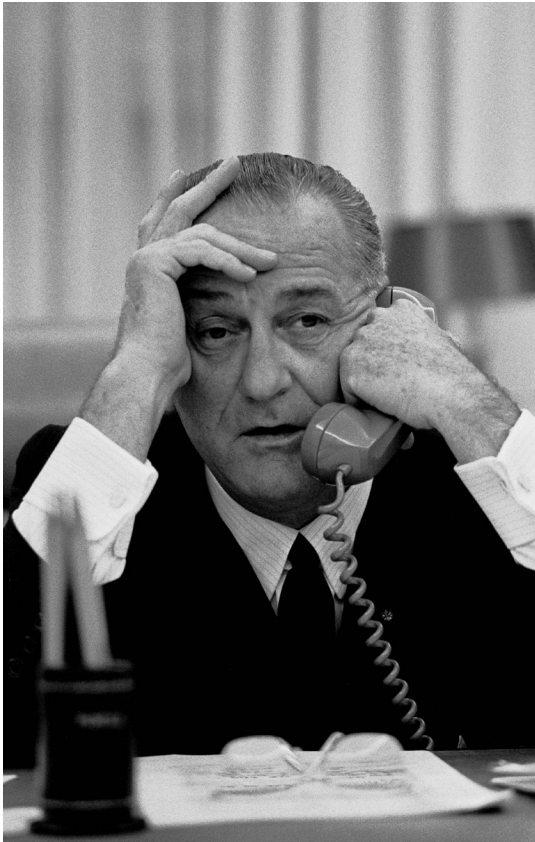
**Do you identify with one of the major parties?** *No. I consider myself socially liberal but economically conservative.*

**Nobody running kind of matches up with that?** *No, not really. There's no winning.*

**Has this election affected your view of politics?** *I'm just kind of tired of how long it's dragged on. I feel like it's unnecessary. It's gone. **T***



## GET SMART



# LBJ: 6/23/64

BY PAGE IVEY



**E**ver had one of those days when the crises just keep coming? Try being president of the United States. Try June 23, 1964 — when President Lyndon Johnson spent 16 hours moving from one crisis to the next, all while maintaining the ceremonial requirements and political obligations that come with the job.

It's a day associate professor of history **Kent Germany** knows well, having spent six years transcribing and researching the Johnson tapes for the President Recordings Project at the University of Virginia's Miller Center of Public Affairs before coming to USC in 2006.

"I was fortunate enough to be hired as one of the faculty members on the project," says Germany. "That gave me the time to really devote to digging into those resources that would have been very, very hard to do otherwise."

Now, Germany is giving USC students a taste of that same sort of primary source research. For their major research paper, students in his History 112 class use publicly available recordings from Lyndon Johnson's White House,

along with the daily diary kept by his secretary, to follow Johnson on June 23, 1964.

Germany's students then write a five-page report. In the process, they not only learn valuable research skills; they also discover just how hectic a president's day can be — especially if he's trying to manage multiple crises.

"He had to respond quickly to things, figure things out, then get his message out," Germany says.

***"IT'S A VERY PHYSICALLY CHALLENGING JOB. FOR JOHNSON, IT WAS CONSTANT CRISIS MANAGEMENT. HE DIDN'T RELAX."***

On the day in question, Johnson dealt with the disappearance (and ultimately, the deaths) of civil rights workers in Mississippi, a number of judicial openings, his re-election campaign and developments in Vietnam. He also met with the prime minister of Turkey amid concerns about a possible war over Cyprus.

His day, which began at 8:25 a.m. with his traditional sit-down breakfast with Democratic leaders and ended at midnight when he finally turned in after a late supper with his wife, also included a range of smaller considerations. Among other things, Johnson discussed federal appointments, a Medicare bill, questions about when to sign the recently passed Civil Rights Act, and internal battles in the Democratic Party in advance of the upcoming convention.

During this hectic day, the president also took time to donate federal land to the state of New Jersey for a recreational park and discussed debt-limit legislation and congressional support for an excise tax amendment with Treasury Secretary Douglas Dillon — all while continuing to check on the missing civil rights workers.

"It's a very physically challenging job," Germany says. "For Johnson, it was constant crisis management. He didn't relax. When he traveled to his home in Texas, he was just doing the presidency in a different place, he wasn't 'on vacation.'" **T**

## SYSTEM EFFECT

# USC BEAUFORT

## A PERFECT MARRIAGE

BY CRAIG BRANDHORST



Sometimes you try to pick someone's brain and they end up picking yours, too — and sometimes, everybody wins.

Take the case of **Brian Canada**, a computational science professor at the University of South Carolina Beaufort. Canada was designing a video game inspired by Gullah folklore when he attended an event at the Penn Center, an African-American cultural and education center on the Beaufort sea island of St. Helena, to learn more about his subject. In the process, he got into a conversation with the center's history and culture director, Victoria Smalls.

"I did not know what Dr. Canada did professionally — he was coming personally to learn more about Gullah culture, and the conversation just evolved," says Smalls, a Gullah native who grew up on St. Helena. "I started asking how I could transform our website from something not well-used by our visitors and by people who want to plan a trip here — we had some beautiful archival images, yes, but the site wasn't attractive, it wasn't appealing."

Established in 1862 as a school for freed slaves, and run as a school for African-Americans until 1948, the Penn Center has evolved over the years, serving as a retreat for Martin Luther King Jr. in the 1960s and as a Peace Corps training center in the 1970s. It is now a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

Canada, whose video game *Bugs 'N Boo Hags* draws on Gullah Geechee folklore, recognized the historic center's need for a more attractive, more navigable online presence. He also recognized an opportunity for USCBe students. After a discussion with Rodell Lawrence, the Penn Center's new director, he began pulling together a team of volunteers to begin the redesign.

"I thought this could be an easy win because we elected to use a commercially available content management system, so there would be very

minimal programming," says Canada. "I think it's very important for computational science majors to learn how to do good user interface design, to think about things from the user experience point of view."

After multiple planning sessions, a 10-person team led by project manager and computational science major Keila Calderon began to develop the site navigation and upload new content.

"These young minds have learned so many things that we just don't know anything about," says Smalls. "They had to pull some teeth, but they asked all the right questions. It was a perfect marriage."

And true to that marriage, the students learned something, too.

"I'm from the area, and, sadly, I had never even heard of the Penn Center," says Calderon, who now chairs the USCBe chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery. "When Dr. Canada expressed how much the center means to the community on St. Helena, I realized what a great opportunity it was. And then going there and touring the center, speaking with volunteers who have in some cases worked there half of their lives, that was really rewarding."

This summer, about a year after the initial discussions, the Penn Center debuted a new website worthy of its central role in the area's culture and history, and Canada started hearing from other institutions, including the Heritage Library, a private research center on Hilton Head Island, which recently hired the ACM student team for a similar project.

"It's also been a great way to attract students to the computational science program, and it's been a great way to attract students to our student organization," says Canada, who has even begun preliminary conversations with colleagues from USCBe's English department about possibly creating a minor in digital humanities.

Meanwhile, USCBe and the Penn Center have cemented a partnership that goes back years.

"Historically, USCBe and the Penn Center have had a good relationship, and this has helped to strengthen that relationship even further," says Canada. "They do so much for the community, and it's such a nice place to visit. We wanted to make the website as inviting as the people and the place itself." **T**



# ENDNOTES

*Browsing the holdings of South Carolina Political Collections, you might notice more Democrats than Republicans, but that's a consequence of history, not bias. "We take great pride in being non-partisan," says Herb Hartsook, the collection's director. "Up into the 1980s, the Democratic Party dominated South Carolina. That situation has flipped. So, necessarily, most of our early donors of collections are Democrats and most of our current donors are Republicans." In the same spirit, USC Times chose the buttons below based not on party affiliation but on the individuals' affiliation with the university. Vote USC.*



**James Clyburn**, the state's first African-American member of Congress since Reconstruction, donated his papers to USC in 2015. "The establishment of the Center for Civil Rights History and Research allows for my congressional papers to be a part of a larger effort to give vibrancy to South Carolina's history and credence to its civil rights activities," Clyburn said at the time.



**Olin D. Johnston** was governor of South Carolina (1935-39, and 1943-45), and a state senator (1945-65), but before all that he was a Gamecock, earning a master's in political science and a bachelor of laws from USC in 1923 and 1924, respectively. His papers represent the university's first major congressional collection.



**Ernest "Fritz" Hollings** — former lieutenant governor, governor and longtime U.S. Senator — helped secure \$14 million for the construction of the Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library, and his portrait hangs in the library's reading room, but the building's name wasn't his idea. "Senator Hollings doesn't like things to be named for him," says Hartsook. "He doesn't have that kind of ego."



**Donald Russell** graduated first in his class in 1925 and earned his law degree at USC three years later. After a string of high-profile positions in the administrations of Presidents Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Harry Truman, he returned to his alma mater as president in 1952. He would later serve as governor (1963-65), U.S. Senator (1965-66) and a federal judge (1966-98). The Russell House is named in his honor.



**Dick Riley** served as governor of South Carolina from 1979 to 1987 and as U.S. Secretary of Education from 1993 to 2001. In 2008, *TIME* magazine named him one of the Ten Best Cabinet Members in U.S. history. He is a 1959 graduate of USC's School of Law and a senior partner at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough.



**Floyd Spence** was a state representative and senator before he embarked on a 30-year tenure with the U.S. House of Representatives in 1971. He graduated from USC in 1952 with a degree in English and earned his law degree from Carolina in 1956. "Floyd Spence was the prototypical big man on campus," says Hartsook. "He was a star athlete, ran track. He was the president of the student body. He just loved USC."