



September 2008

PARENT *news*

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF PARENTS AND ASSISTING WITH COLLEGE LIFE.

Keeping Students Safe In Times Of Crisis

As students head off to colleges around the nation this fall, their safety is a top concern of parents. We've all seen the tragedies that can strike any college campus and at the University of South Carolina Upstate, we have an ongoing commitment to campus safety and security.

As part of an overall Emergency Preparedness Plan, the University has implemented a Campus Emergency Notification System, an instant, mass notification system that will alert all students, faculty and staff when circumstances arise that pose a threat of imminent danger at or near any USC Upstate location. Emergencies such as, but not limited to, fire, tornado, hazardous materials spill, an act of violence, or other major disaster or incident determined by the Incident Management Team.

"This new system will build on existing methods of information distribution and communication, and will greatly expand USC Upstate's ability to quickly and reliably communicate with the campus community in an emergency," said Tammy Whaley, director of university communications.

The Campus Emergency Notification System allows the University to send such alerts via text message, e-mail, phone, and paging to campus telephone extensions through existing Cisco IP speaker phones. However, to receive these alerts, students must register through VIP (<https://vip.sc.edu/>) where they will be asked to provide a cell phone number, e-mail address and work/alternate phone number. The work/alternate phone number can be that of a parent or family member so that they will be informed of any emergency on campus.

This information will remain confidential and will never be used for any purpose other than emergency alerts. Participants should keep in mind that if they change phone numbers or cell phone carriers, that information will need to be updated in the system.

"Participation in the Emergency Notification System is voluntary but we hope that every student will sign-up for the alerts," said Chief of Police Klay Peterson. "With everyone's participation, this system strengthens emergency preparedness for our students, faculty and staff at all USC Upstate locations. In emergency situations, notifying the campus community of a crisis incident and the precautions they should take to keep themselves safe is critical."

We hope that all parents will encourage their students to participate in the Emergency Notification System. To learn more about this system or about USC Upstate's Emergency Preparedness Program, visit www.uscupstate.edu/emergency.





Dan Adams Track & Field Complex

For nearly three decades, Dan Adams has put his experience in finance and business to use in directing more than 200 merger and acquisition transactions. As president and CEO of The Capital Corporation, an investment banking firm he co-founded in 1991, Adams often looks for good management, proven earnings record, and a different niche before investing his resources.

It was the same set of criteria he looked for when the 1983 USC Upstate graduate made the lead gift for the Dan Adams Track & Field Complex, a \$3 million project that is scheduled to be under construction within the next year. Track & field is a sport that was established with USC Upstate's recent move to Division I.

"The addition of the track & field programs was something that needed to happen to boost the number of sports we offer to the NCAA minimum level," said Director of Athletics Mike Hall. "The Atlantic Sun Conference conducts conference championships in indoor and outdoor track & field and it was logical, in coordination with re-establishing the cross country programs, to add track & field for men and women. In our first year of competition, we had outstanding results with several of our men and women performing at or near the top of the conference."

Ever the astute businessman, Adams clearly recognizes the economic impact that the University --- students, athletic programs, potential jobs --- makes on the region. He also realizes the impact that top-notch athletic facilities has on the recruitment of student athletes and coaches.

Adams points to the successful history of the soccer and baseball programs as the impact a new track & field facility will have at the University. Not only will USC Upstate be able to recruit nationally-recognized student athletes, but the opportunity to host prominent competitions that will directly benefit the Spartanburg community in economic terms is also a great possibility.

"With this gift, Dan Adams is not only assuring the future of the program at USC Upstate but he is also creating a greater interest in track & field in the community," said Track & Field Head Coach Jimmy Stephens.

making new friends, the students are getting a first hand look at how their volunteer service will forever impact the lives of the family members who move into this house. This service learning component of our curriculum is one of the most critical elements in getting students engaged early in their university and surrounding communities."

In addition to working on the construction site, students also assist with seeking financial support for this project. Donors can purchase symbolic square feet of the Habitat house for \$25 per square foot and be recognized as a contributing partner in our Habitat Blitz. You'll even get your name scribed on the home's wood framing, memorializing your timeless gift! Students with outstanding financial sponsorship can earn top honors at the annual celebration in December when the keys are presented to the family. What better way for our first-year students to make their mark at Upstate!

If you'd like more information about the project, please contact Louise Ericson at (864) 503-5052 or at lericson@uscupstate.edu. A special Web site has been created to follow along with the progress of the house. The site will feature photos, interviews with students at the building site, and a profile of the Spartanburg family who will receive the home. To view the site, visit www.uscupstate.edu/habitat.

Habitat Blitz

USC Upstate first-year students will be wearing hard hats and nail aprons again this fall as they construct a second Habitat for Humanity home for a local Spartanburg family. Students take on the complete challenge of this project, known as the Habitat Blitz, including everything from fundraising to nailing down the roof. The Habitat Blitz officially gets underway on September 23.

Upstate's Habitat Blitz is unique in that students construct most of the house on campus before it is moved to its permanent location and this provides a unique atmosphere for students to build community on campus while also engaging the local community. During the two weeks that the building takes place on campus, many visitors frequent the site where more than 650 students will complete the main interior and exterior structure and roofing for the single-story, 1,200-square-foot home before it is moved to its permanent site on October 10.

"The students are excited about this opportunity," said Louise Ericson, director of the Center for Student Success who oversees the University 101 program. "Aside from learning new skills and

Important Dates

August	August 17	Freshman Move-in Day
	August 21	Classes Begin
	August 25	Last Day To Drop/Add A Class
	August 27	Premiere Fair
September	September 1	Labor Day Holiday - no classes
	September 3	Freshman Convocation
	September 9	Relax/Study Well Information Table
	September 17	AD/HD Awareness Event
	September 20	Dance-A-Rama
	September 22	"DUI: A Powerful Lesson" With Mark Sterner
	September 23	Habitat Blitz Begins
October	October 1	Rocktoberfest Featuring "Nappy Roots"
	October 2-5	Shoestring Players Perform <i>Picasso At The Lapin Agile</i>
	October 7	Freshman First Speaker
	October 9-10	Fall Break - no classes
	October 15	College Majors Fair
	October 16-17	Flu Shots Available
	October 27-November 7	Academic Advisement For Spring 2009
	October 30	Last Day To Withdraw Without Academic Penalty
November	November 4	General Election Day - no classes
	November 13-16	Shoestring Players Perform <i>Stop Kiss</i>
	November 10-21	Priority Registration Through VIP For Spring 2009
	November 26-28	Thanksgiving Break - no classes

USC Upstate Student Launches JC Stroble Glaucoma Awareness Foundation



Many in the Spartanburg community know JC Stroble as the man who calls the orders out and tells you to "move on down the line" at the Beacon Restaurant. Legally blind as a result of glaucoma, he has been a fixture of the restaurant for 50 years. They may not know his daughter, Jekeithlyn Stroble Ross, nonprofit administration major and a former optician, who has formed a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating people about glaucoma and other eye diseases.

Ross formed the JC Stroble Glaucoma Awareness Foundation this past spring and successfully hosted a community outreach event entitled "Glaucoma Awareness Day - Fight For Sight." This

event offered free screenings for glaucoma, eye exams, as well as blood pressure and cholesterol checks. She recruited nursing students to assist with screenings, Dr. Lawrence Roel and his staff performed glaucoma screenings and offered information on the latest corrective eye surgical procedures, and the USC Upstate chapter of the Lions Club (of which Ross is a member) collected used eyeglasses.

"The key is early detection, keeping regular eye exams, and to maintain a medication regimen," Ross says, adding that "since this disease can rob your eyesight with no signs or symptoms, screenings like this one are so important." Ross says that in her research and in her discussions with ophthalmologists, she has found that over 50 percent of people in Spartanburg and surrounding areas seen by ophthalmologists are diagnosed with glaucoma.

Ross watched her father go blind at the age of 36, his vision robbed

by glaucoma, which affects peripheral vision when fluid pressure builds up within the eye, gradually causing eyesight to narrow to tunnel vision, and finally causes objects in front to be blurry, and fade.

Her father's disease affected Ross' career path, and she became an optician. After marriage, four children and life as a military wife, she decided to return to school to get a degree in nonprofit administration, so she could bring her dream of helping and educating the community about glaucoma into focus.

"I know a lot about the disease," she says, "but to effectively manage the foundation, I decided to return to school to get my degree." Currently in her second year of nonprofit administration program, she formed an official 501(c) 3 organization, under the umbrella of the Spartanburg County Foundation, called the JC Stroble Glaucoma Awareness Foundation.

L.D. Thompson

Thompson Receives Diversity Leadership Student Award

LaDarius "L.D." Thompson, a junior from Anderson who is majoring in nonprofit administration, received the Diversity Leadership Student Award at the Fourth Annual Upstate Diversity Leadership Awards Dinner. This event is presented by The Riley Institute at Furman and hosted by the Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce, Greater Greenville Chamber of Commerce and the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce. Thompson is the son of Vickie McGriss.

"L.D. has shown a genuine passion for diversity both on the USC Upstate campus and in the greater Spartanburg community," said Laura Puckett-Boler, interim vice chancellor for student and diversity affairs. "Regardless of his many academic and co-curricular responsibilities, L.D. always finds time to involve himself and engage others in diversity matters. He is a persistent and consistent advocate and supporter of diversity initiatives and a positive example for others."

Among his many campus initiatives, Thompson facilitated a film series that challenged others to think seriously about diversity. Additionally, he has led open and honest discussions regarding difficult diversity issues. He has been actively involved with the University's Safe Zone Program, the One World/One Upstate Program, a National Coalition Building Institute Training Program, and served as a member of the Multicultural Advisory Board.



Award-Winning Journalist To Teach Media Management And Investigative Reporting



Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist Mitch Weiss is teaching as an adjunct journalism instructor this fall. A veteran writer, editor and special projects reporter, Weiss is teaching Media Management, a class about the business side of media operations. He will address issues specific to the changes and challenges the media business faces in the current economic climate, such as large-scale job cutbacks and media consolidations and reorganizations.

“The expertise that Mitch Weiss brings to USC Upstate journalism students is without parallel. His award-winning career in journalism, his novel, which was selected as one of the year’s best books by The Washington Post Book World, the San Francisco Chronicle, the Pittsburg Post-Gazette and the St. Louis Dispatch, and his position with the Associated Press brings the rich texture of a successful journalism career into the classroom,” says Jimm Cox, chairman of the Fine Arts and Communication Studies Department.

A native of New York City, Weiss’ career spans nearly 30 years. After earning his master’s degree in journalism from

Northwestern University in 1982, he worked as an Associated Press reporter in Toledo and Columbus, Ohio for 12 years. In 1998 he became the state editor for The Blade of Toledo, Ohio and from 2003 to 2005 he worked as the paper’s projects reporter. Weiss moved to the Carolinas to take the job of deputy business editor of The Charlotte Observer in 2005, and most recently was named correspondent to the Associated Press’ Charlotte Bureau in early 2008.

“Journalism is a wonderful career,” Weiss says, adding that he enjoys teaching students about all aspects of journalism, and looks forward to mentoring them as they explore their career options.

USC Upstate plans to have Weiss offer a class in his area of specialty, investigative journalism, in the spring semester. The class will cover Freedom of Information requests and a review of the information databases and other research tools useful to investigative journalists.

“The Media Management class and the Investigative Reporting class are both important opportunities for USC Upstate communication majors to study with a recognized professional,” says Cox.

If you wish to receive the electronic version of Parent News, please e-mail: parentnews@uscupstate.edu. For more information, contact Laura Puckett-Boler, dean of students, at (864) 503-5387.

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