

best OF
carolina
2019

blush.

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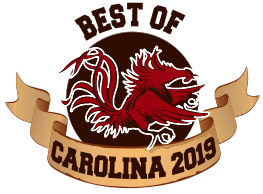
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WINNERS

BEST OF ON-CAMPUS

Best On-Campus Eats	Chick-fil-A
Best On-Campus Living	Honors Residence
Best Professor	Josef Olmert (POLI)/Theresa Clement (CRJU)
Best Sorority	Alpha Delta Pi
Best Fraternity	Sigma Phi Epsilon
Best Service Sorority	Omega Phi Alpha
Best Professional Fraternity	Alpha Kappa Psi
Best Student Organization	Dance Marathon

BEST OF ENTERTAINMENT

Best Movie Theater	The Nickelodeon Theatre
Best Sports Venue	Williams-Brice Stadium
Best Sports Bar	Buffalo Wild Wings
Best Dance Spot	The Cotton Gin
Best Place for Good, Clean Fun	Soda City Market
Best Live Music/Performance Venue	The Senate
Best Five Points Bar, Patio, Happy Hour, Bartenders	Jake's on Devine
Best Vista Bar	Tin Roof
Best Pizza, Place for Trivia	Village Idiot Pizza and Pub
Best Local Festival	Columbia's Greek Festival

BEST OF RETAIL

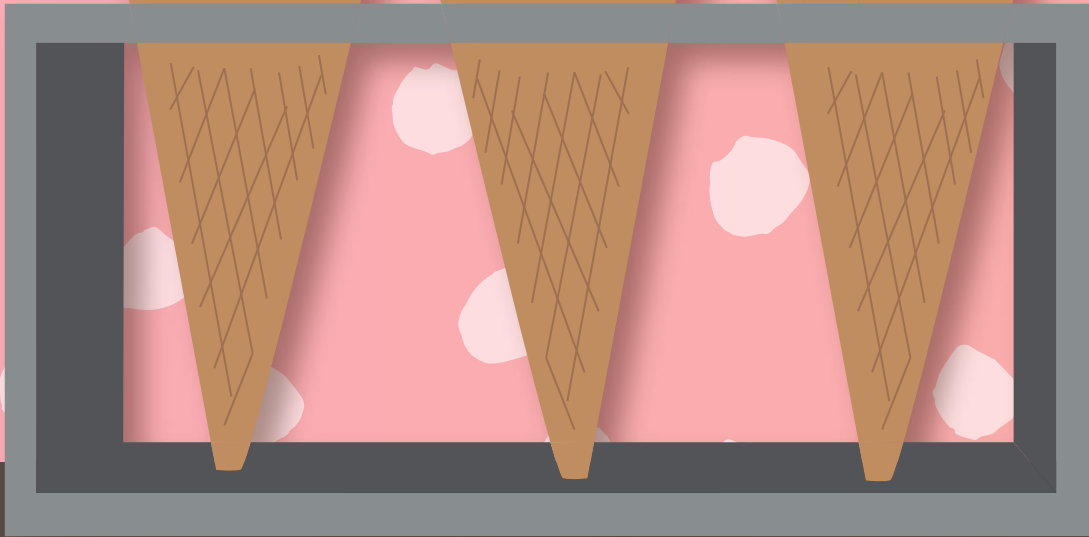
Best Grocery Store	Publix
Best Bookstore, Place to Get Gamecock Gear	USC Barnes & Noble
Best Clothing Store	Vestique
Best Soda City Retail Vendor	Mast General Store

BEST OF FOOD & DRINK

Best Restaurant to Take Your Parents To	Blue Marlin
Best Restaurant to Take a Date, Best Mexican	Cantina 76
Best Breakfast/Brunch	Cinnamon Roll Deli
Best Lunch	The Gourmet Shop/Groucho's Deli
Best Sushi	Tsunami
Best Burgers	Pawleys Front Porch
Best Late-Night Eats	Cook Out
Best Dessert	Kaminsky's Dessert Cafe
Best Frozen Yogurt	The Corner Blend
Best Local Coffee Shop	Cool Beans Coffee Company
Best Delivery	Domino's
Best Meal Special, Place That Takes Carolina Cash	Moe's Southwest Grill
Best New Restaurant	The Baked Bear
Best Brewery	River Rat Brewery
Best Soda City Food Vendor	Belgian Waffle Truck

BEST OF SERVICES

Best Off-Campus Living	Greene Crossing
Best Auto Repair	Firestone Complete Auto Care
Best Nail/Waxing Salon	Campus Nails and Spa
Best Hair Salon	Five Points Salon
Best Gym	Strom Thurmond Wellness and Fitness Center



*Oh
campus*

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BEST ON-CAMPUS EATS

Russell House Chick-fil-A



KATIE SLACK

JOE MCLEAN

There are more than 30 on-campus dining options at the University of South Carolina, but one stands out as a clear favorite with a lengthy line of hungry students every hour of the day.

Since Russell House was renovated in the summer of 2018, Chick-fil-A is now located on the first floor of the student union. Even though it is on a college campus and in the student union, this location serves a full Chick-fil-A menu. Prior to the summer of 2018, the only Chick-fil-A on campus was a Chick-fil-A Express location with a very limited menu.

The new Russell House location serves the always-popular chicken sandwiches, biscuits and nuggets, but students can also purchase

items such as salads, wraps and milkshakes.

What makes this location even more convenient is that because Chick-fil-A is located in the center of the hub of student activity on campus, all meal plans are accepted. Similar to other on-campus dining locations, meal plan users have meal allowances per swipe.

Keeping with Chick-fil-A policy, this location is closed on Sundays. Given America's love for the southern fast food restaurant, it is no surprise that even with all of the options on campus, Chick-fil-A in Russell House was voted Best On-Campus Eats.

1400 Greene St.

Monday - Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Saturday: 8:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Sunday: Closed

PRERANA SHIDHAYE

The Honors Residence is one of the newer dormitories on the University of South Carolina campus. The hall features suite-style rooms with "Jack-and-Jill" bathrooms. The facility also has many classrooms and shared spaces on the main floor. These rooms can be used as study areas, meeting rooms for organizations, and sometimes even as classrooms.

The Honors Residence is located in a very centralized area of campus. It is near Thomas Cooper Library, Russell House Student Union and the Jones and Coker science buildings. The community in the residence hall is close-knit — many of the residents are friendly with one another. Living in the Honors Residence lets students get to know fellow up-and-coming leaders and allows them to come

together as a community.

The residence hall has a dining hall on the bottom floor called Honeycomb Café, which is very convenient for residents. Honeycomb Café is also open to the public and many students living in other residence halls or even off-campus can often be found eating there. There are a total of six floors in the residence hall, which can all be accessed by using elevators or stairs. Living in the Honors Residence Hall encourages residents to continue to inspire others and follow through with their academic endeavors.

1215 Blossom St.

BEST ON-CAMPUS LIVING

Honors Residence



MARK MADDALONI

BEST PROFESSORS

Josef Olmert and Theresa Clement

HALLIE HAYES

Let's face it — there is nothing that can make or break a college course quite like a professor. We spend endless hours hoping for an understanding professor who is committed to helping us reach our full potential. Lucky for you, if you have taken either of these two professors, you have experienced two of the absolute best: Josef Olmert and Theresa Clement.

Professor Olmert is a political science professor at USC. He is devoted to making sure that his students are successful, teaching them in ways that will help them understand and grow as students. A few words that have been used to describe Olmert include respectful, caring and hilarious! There is nothing like a professor who is not only caring but who can

also keep you laughing.

Professor Clement is a criminal justice professor at USC. Though her classes tend to be lecture-heavy, she gives you plenty of valuable information and takes the time to ensure students are supported in their learning. She is known for taking the time to check on her students to be sure that they understand the material that

she is teaching.

If you've had the opportunity to take either of these professors, consider yourself lucky. If you haven't and the opportunity approaches, take it! These professors care about their students and they want to watch them grow.

BEST SORORITY

Alpha Delta Pi

PRERANA SHIDHAYE

Alpha Delta Pi was founded on May 15, 1851 at Wesleyan College. Alpha Delta Pi was the first secret society for women ever formed, and is commonly known as the mother of the present-day sorority system. Alpha Delta Pi heavily values principles of scholarship, leadership, service to others and sisterhood. Members of Alpha Delta Pi dedicate themselves to upholding these values, and these principles play a direct role in the policies and programs of Alpha Delta Pi chapters across the nation today.

The Beta Epsilon chapter of Alpha Delta Pi was established at the University of South Carolina in 1928. Beta Epsilon's open motto, "We live for each other," encompasses the foundation upon which Alpha Delta Pi was founded: sisterhood. This motto is very near and dear to sisters

of Beta Epsilon and the common truth they are able to find in it binds them together in everlasting friendship. Azure blue and white are the official colors of Alpha Delta Pi. Blue symbolizes friendship, while white symbolizes sincerity and truth.

The official philanthropy of Alpha Delta Pi is the Ronald McDonald House. Since partnering with RMHC in 1979, Alpha Delta Pi has contributed more than \$8.9 million to the cause. RMHC supports Ronald McDonald Houses, Care Mobiles and Ronald McDonald Family Rooms in local communities in addition to funding grants to other programs that focus on children in need. Sisterhood is central to membership in Alpha Delta Pi, and members of Beta Epsilon look forward to sharing this bond with new members for years to come.



ZACH MCKINLEY

Want to help plan events like these?

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DAVIS**

**ROLLER
DISCO**

SpringFest

**BATTLE of
the BANDS**

**COMEDY
CLUB NIGHT**

IMPROV

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NIGHT

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ROOM**

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NICOLE BYER

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COURTESY OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON

BEST FRATERNITY



Sigma Phi Epsilon

CAITLIN NEBEL

When you join SigEp, you join a 115-year tradition of “building balanced men.” Being a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon means, among other things, participating in community outreach events like the ones hosted in the past year to benefit the fraternity’s main charity partner: Big Brothers Big Sisters. The Alpha chapter at USC has a history of supporting causes that build not only balanced men but also a balanced community.

Philanthropy, while important to the fraternity, is not the only focus of SigEp. Retreats with

the goal of creating everlasting bonds between brothers and participation in intra-fraternity sports competitions allow for a balance of fun within the organization’s efforts to provide service. Additionally, SigEp proudly boasts academic excellence among its members with notably high-ranking GPA percentages within Greek life.

Guided by virtue, diligence and brotherly love, members of Sigma Phi Epsilon continue to strive for excellence in all areas of personal development.

BEST SERVICE SORORITY



Omega Phi Alpha

CAITLIN NEBEL

OPhA — the name members of the Chi chapter of this national service sorority lovingly refer to their organization as — is no stranger to our publication. Since winning the title last year, the sorority has raised money for Camp Cole, an overnight retreat for local children with disabilities; partnered with the International Justice Mission to spread awareness about human trafficking; donated proceeds from their events to Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands; and supported Relay for Life fundraising efforts.

This year’s Best Service Sorority is working towards contributing as much as it can to create not only a better USC but a better Columbia.

By involving the community in its efforts with exciting fundraising events such as kickball, the sorority embraces improving the lives not only of those supported by partner organizations, but also everyone touched by the activities. However, it is often the members of OPhA that learn the most about both those they do service for as well as themselves.

Omega Phi Alpha consistently works to show off the best of USC’s young women while still including the social atmosphere of other sororities. It is the balance of all three values — friendship, leadership and service — that make OPhA the organization it is today.

BEST PROFESSIONAL FRATERNITY



Alpha Kappa Psi

CAITLIN NEBEL

Alpha Kappa Psi, which has been on campus since 1958, strives to create a powerful network of the most driven young businessmen and women at USC. The business fraternity is part of a larger group of nearly a quarter of a million national members all sharing the values of professionalism. Central to its core are the founding pillars of brotherhood, integrity, service, unity and knowledge.

These principles are achieved annually through events that expand professional opportunities for AKPsi members. AKPsi brothers attend resume workshops, listen to guest speakers from high-ranking companies and stage mock interviews. The Beta Upsilon

chapter of this national fraternity accepts members of all majors and genders; the one thing all brothers must have is simply a goal of becoming the best future leader they can be.

On the lighter side, the fraternity puts out Spotify playlists and hosts formals showing that being serious about your future doesn’t come without some fun. Ultimately, Alpha Kappa Psi is a well-rounded organization that seeks to empower every single member to cultivate their best selves.

BEST STUDENT ORGANIZATION

Dance Marathon

HALLIE HAYES

Since 1998, Dance Marathon has been a fun, beloved fundraiser for the USC community. Often referred to as USCDM, this event keeps you on your feet all night — literally! USCDM is a fundraiser where participants fundraise consistently throughout the year leading up to the dance marathon itself, where they will dance for a full 14 hours. USCDM is the largest student organization on campus,

and it continues to grow.

This fundraiser supports the Child Life Program at Prisma Health Children's Hospital (formerly Palmetto Health) and the local Children's Miracle Network Hospital, for which more than \$4.6 million has been raised since 1998. The hospital is located here in Columbia.

Before the main event, which is

held every spring semester, USCDM hosts many small events, including a 24-hour fundraising drive and other, smaller marathons at local high schools in order to begin raising money. USCDM is one of the top collegiate dance marathon organizations in the country, and in 2018, USC's chapter became one of few groups to raise over \$1 million in a year. The money raised each year continues to grow, and

the way that this fundraiser is able to help local children continues to blow the minds of locals.

This year, USCDM will be celebrating its 21st marathon and the fourth time in a row that it's been named the best student organization on USC's campus.



COURTESY OF CAROLINE KEYS



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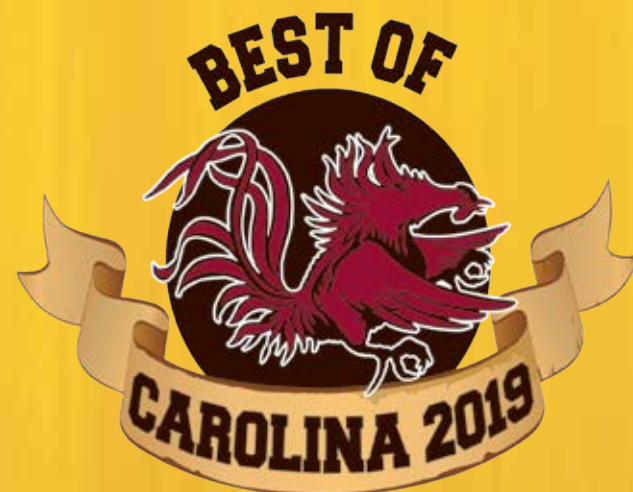
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CAROLINA CASH**

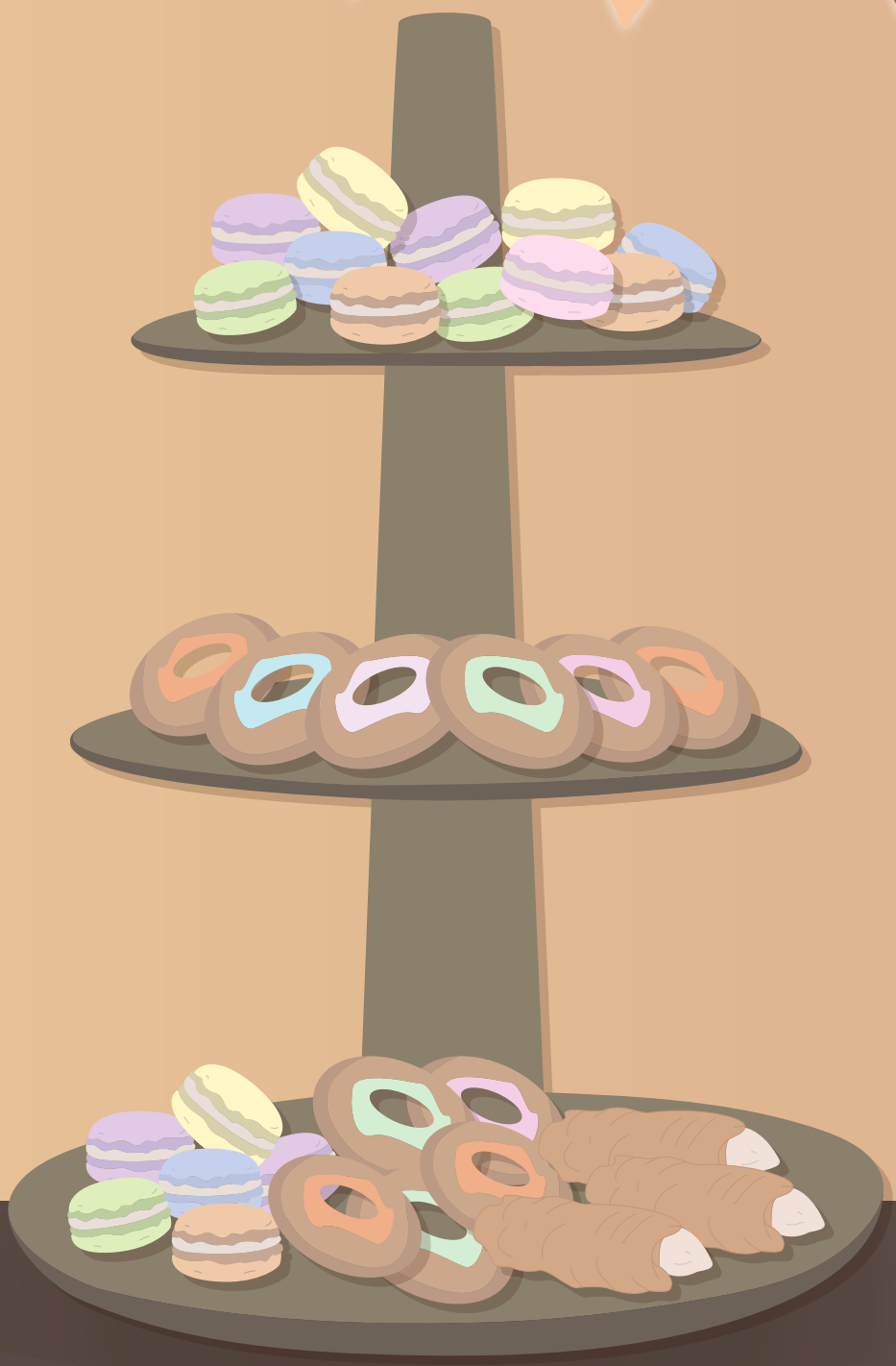
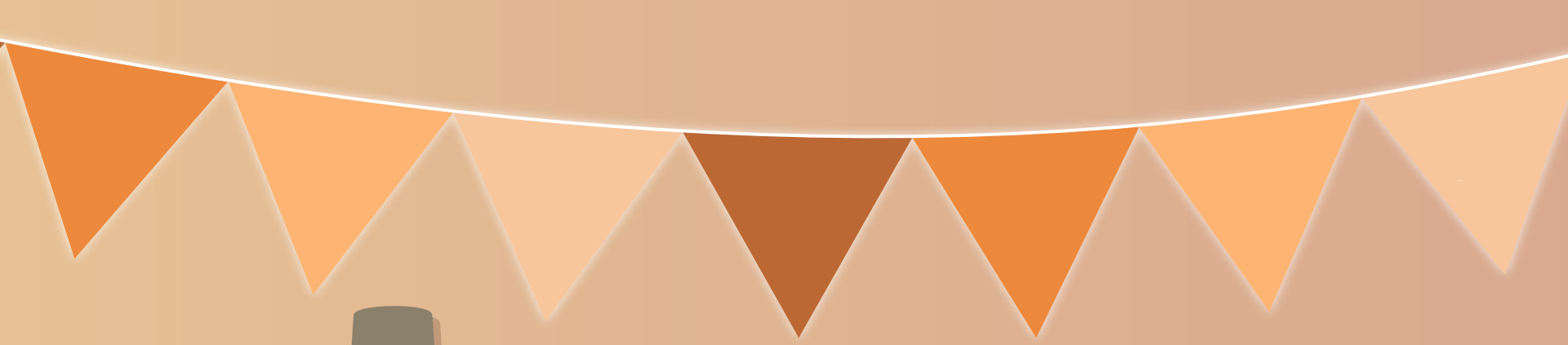
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803.743.9663**

**4601 DEVINE ST, STE B • COLUMBIA, SC 29205
803.832.7498**







ABIGAIL GREEN

BEST MOVIE THEATER

The Nickelodeon Theatre

TAYLOR WASHINGTON

Affectionately referred to as “the Nick” by Columbia locals, this cozy movie theater is a film lover’s dream. The Nickelodeon Theatre is Columbia’s resident nonprofit theater, and it’s known for screening independent films you wouldn’t normally find at mainstream theaters. Whether it be indie gems or foreign favorites, the theater’s goal is to expose Columbia to a variety of cinema that residents wouldn’t get a chance to see anywhere else.

When it’s not showing films on the indie circuit, the theatre holds screenings of old classics and hosts special series that revolve around certain themes. Past series have included “Foreign Focus,” “Black Stories” and an LGBTQ+ themed series called “Out Here.” At the same time, the Nick is very involved with the community and often has talk-backs after special screenings in an effort to promote social change. Still, perhaps the biggest perk of the Nick is that compared to

corporate theaters, the Nick is a sweet escape from the noisy phones, excessive talking and overpriced snacks. Watching a movie at the Nick is an intimate experience you won’t find anywhere else.

1607 Main St.

BEST SPORTS VENUE

Williams-Brice Stadium

JOE MCLEAN

Saturdays in the fall in Columbia mean one thing — South Carolina football. And South Carolina football would not be what it is without Williams-Brice Stadium, also known as “Willy B.”

At the corner of Bluff Road and George Rogers Boulevard, Williams-Brice Stadium has been home to the Gamecocks since 1934. The stadium received its current name in 1970 when the estate of Martha Williams and Howard Brice left part of their

estate to USC to be used for stadium renovation and expansion. This donation not only changed the stadium’s name, but also increased capacity by 14,000 seats, in addition to new amenities such as a turf field, a new press box and updated player areas.

Part of what makes Williams-Brice Stadium the top sports venue in Columbia includes game day traditions. Before each game, the Gamecocks run onto the field to the sounds of “2001: A Space

Odyssey.” Complete with Cockey and the Carolina Band on the field and with over 80,000 fans waving white towels in the air, it is a tradition that never gets old for many South Carolina students. To add to this atmosphere, “Sandstorm” plays over the stadium’s loud speakers before each kickoff, as well as after each score and key plays. Like during “2001: A Space Odyssey,” fans and students wave their white towels in the air, but this time are also chanting “USC! USC! USC!” as

the song plays.

In addition, after each game, the entire team faces the student section as fans sing the university’s alma mater, regardless of the outcome of the game. It’s an impactful tradition, especially for current students and alumni. With a long history of football and with so many traditions, it can be easy to see why so many South Carolina students see Willy B as a home away from home.



ZACH MCKINLEY

BEST SPORTS BAR

Buffalo Wild Wings

ÉMILIE ROLLET

Buffalo Wild Wings has always been the place to go at midnight when you're feeling adventurous and in the mood for 65-cent wings. For some reason, wings so hot they almost set your mouth on fire are somewhat of a comfort food. And on Tuesdays and Thursdays, you can get 10 wings for about \$7. You will not find an empty Buffalo Wild Wings on either of these days. Even at 1 a.m., you better believe there will still be people eating wings at the bar until the very nice and still energetic staff kicks them out.

But Asian Zest and Honey Barbeque don't just wait for Tuesday and Thursdays. B-Dubbs (a term only loyal followers understand) streams all kinds of sports on any given day. The restaurant will have golf, swimming, soccer, tennis, football, basketball and other sports televised

on one of their many screens. And no matter what seat or table you're sitting at, you'll still have a great view of at least three TVs.

There are many bars in Columbia and the Five Points area that play football games on Saturdays and Sundays, but usually on one screen and you can't hear a thing. At B-Dubbs, especially for USC and Clemson games, games are played on most of the TVs and the sound is turned all the way up. You can find people of varying ages and fans of so many different teams all in one spot. It's fun to find out who's rooting for whom once you figure out which TV they're looking at. If you're looking for some good food, good vibes, good quality and good sound systems, head to Buffalo Wild Wings for your next game of choice!

4500 Devine St.
11 - 1 a.m.



BEST DANCE SPOT

The Cotton Gin

CAITLIN NEBEL

"The only relevant club in Columbia," says The Cotton Gin's Instagram page. While perhaps a bit exaggerated, there is some truth in the bar's boastings. Once again, the Five Points bar has won the title of Best Dance Spot as it continues to deliver on an unspoken promise of great times.

The Cotton Gin is a bar and a club in both respects. Its lower level features two different bars for grabbing drinks while an upper level is reserved for the more club-like atmosphere. On its unmissable marquee, The Cotton Gin advertises DJs playing hits that garner a packed dance floor every weekend. The bar often hosts special nights with

guest DJs that only fill the air with pounding remixes of hot new songs. Notoriously, the bar frequently has long lines stretching down Harden Street of anxiously waiting patrons.

Every Tuesday through Saturday, the bar is open and often with a drink special to add more excitement to the mix. It's no secret there is much fun to be had at The Cotton Gin. While it might not be the only club of relevance in the area, it is decidedly the most essential to the Columbia experience.

632 Harden St.
10 p.m. - 2 a.m.

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HANNAH WADE

BEST PLACE FOR GOOD, CLEAN FUN

Soda City Market

PRERANA SHIDHAYE

Bored on a Saturday morning? Consider making a trip to the Soda City Market! The Soda City Market takes place on Main Street every week in Columbia, South Carolina. The three-block market is open all year, regardless of the weather, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The streets of downtown Columbia can be seen filled with students and families looking to broaden their horizons in terms of authentic food and diverse shopping experiences. The market gives local farmers the opportunity to sell locally grown, organic produce. It also gives people in the community the chance to speak to

the farmers who grow the produce they consume, which helps them learn about how their food makes it from the garden to the table.


The Soda City Market allows locals to share their talent with the community by means of different creative outlets that include live musical and dance performances, magic tricks and authentic handiworks. The multitude of vendors is enough to please anyone; from those seeking to take an adventurous route in trying new things, to customers with the pickiest of palates.

Food trucks serve everything from savory Peruvian street food to golden Belgian waffles that melt in your mouth. In addition to these delicacies, hungry visitors can enjoy tacos, donuts, ice cream, specialty coffee, baked goods, breads and avocado toast. The lively and inviting atmosphere of the market is sure to be a hit among visitors and Columbia natives alike. A major goal of the Soda City Market team is to create an inclusive environment with memorable booths that appeal to all age groups. The open air setting of the market caters to large audiences and is a pet-friendly environment.

Many booths even sell treats for canine companions! Street parking is free, though limited, on weekends, so go early and don't feel the need to rush your visit.

Saturday
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Main St.
1300 - 1500 blocks

NATALIE, 19



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ZACH MCKINLEY

BEST LIVE MUSIC/PERFORMANCE VENUE



The Senate

CAITLIN NEBEL

The venue formerly known as Music Farm is now The Senate. While the name has changed, the love from locals for this stage remains. Once again, this location reigns supreme as the best place to watch a performance any night of the week. Search no farther than The Senate for exciting shows with a big-city feel without having to leave Columbia. Every artist promises to bring the

same energy to the open floor in front of the intimate venue and The Senate does not disappoint.

The location is owned by neighboring bar Tin Roof, which gives concertgoers the opportunity to grab food before the show at a discount. Inside The Senate, though, there is a full bar to boot.

The Senate's location is another feature making it a local favorite. Neatly within walking distance of the university and surrounded by the amenities of The Vista, The Senate is a dream-come-true for Columbia music enthusiasts. The venue has drawn artists including a jam-packed Rainbow Kitten Surprise show and has more amazing concerts planned with Elle King and Moon Taxi set to

hit the stage in April. For anyone looking to experience all that Columbia has to offer, The Senate is a must.

**632 Harden St.
10 p.m. - 2 a.m.**

**BEST FIVE POINTS BAR,
BEST BARTENDERS,
BEST PATIO,
BEST HAPPY HOUR**



Jake's on Devine



KELSIE WILKINS

CAITLIN NEBEL

Welcome to the better-than-a-bar bar on the edge of The Vista. Tin Roof offers food so good you'll wonder how you're eating it in a venue that hosts awesome live music and pours typical boozy specials. It's possible to have the restaurant experience with the classic bar feel normally found in Five Points.

Menu selections include Dixie Biscuits: three fried chicken sliders with brisket and peach jam, and the Voodoo Shrimp Grinder, a Creole style stew with andouille sausage and shrimp piled high on a garlic butter roll. However, the best part of Tin Roof might be the daily specials

on both food and drink. Tin Roof's Taco Tuesday includes a dollar off all tacos and \$4 margaritas to go with them.

Happy hour happens Monday through Saturday and gets you half off appetizers and \$2 drafts. Tin Roof also happens to be a music spot for listeners of all genres with DJs and live bands weekly. Themed music nights bring even more fun to the industrial but colorful bar, and there's even the occasional bingo night. Tin Roof does it all and at prices that will make your heart sing as loud as the featured artist on the stage.

1022 Senate St.

Monday-Friday

4 p.m. - 3 a.m.

Sunday-Saturday

11 a.m. - 2 a.m.

CAITLIN NEBEL

There may be no better Columbia biweekly event than Jake's Yappy Hour. It is well known for being the best place to relax, hang out, listen to good music and sip on cheap drinks. Thanks to the sprawling but intimate, hidden-away back patio, Jake's on Devine is able to offer the feel of a laid-back bar right in the heart of the bustling Five Points district.

Jake's is perhaps the most versatile spot in the city, with an extensive craft beer selection and a full-service kitchen. The menu serves up more than any comparable bar in the area with Po' Boys and

pimento cheese selections no music-oriented spot could dream of. Jake's is definitely not your typical bar in every way.

The bar is both a place to party and a place to relax — depending on who you ask and when — and that is exactly what continues to make Jake's a hit for everyone. Few locations in Columbia allow for such a range of vibes, but Jake's has managed to do it for years and become a favorite for it. Bring your dog, order a drink, chow down on a sandwich and know that you are experiencing the friendliest bar the city has to offer.

2112 Devine St.

Monday-Saturday

4 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Sunday

11 a.m. - 2 a.m.

BEST VISTA BAR



Tin Roof



ZACH MCKINLEY

BEST PLACE FOR TRIVIA, BEST PIZZA

Village Idiot Pizza



ETHAN LAM

CAITLIN NEBEL

There are few restaurants as beloved by students as Village Idiot Pizza. The original location of the now-growing Columbia pizza shop sits on Devine Street in Five Points, welcoming all bargoers on the beginning of their night out. Village Idiot is just as great of a bar as it is a sit-down restaurant with beer specials to match its happy hour \$1.50 pizza slices.

Whether you win or lose at trivia, you'll still be a winner with the buy one, get one pizza deal that occurs during the game. It is likely

this special that puts Village Idiot over the top and cements it as a constant "Best of" title holder. From the specials to the big tables, the restaurant is designed with a night out for friends in mind.

The variety of delicious pizza, wings and sandwiches makes Village Idiot Pizza a hit for all and the trivia nights make it a must for entertainment. Look no farther for an authentic New York experience, because it's hidden right behind that big wooden door and a small flight of stairs.

2009 Devine St.
11 a.m.- 12 a.m.

BEST LOCAL FESTIVAL

Columbia's Greek Festival

CAITLIN NEBEL

Every September for over 30 years, the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral has brought the city the opportunity to explore another culture. Authentic cuisine is at the heart of the festival, drawing in local foodies with pastitsio, keftedes, dolmades and spanakopita.

But food isn't the only attraction of the four-day festival. Patrons can shop from vendors of handmade creations from pens to soap and, of course, elegant jewelry. The days of the festival are filled with tours of the church,

exhibitions on Greek history and modern culture, performances about Greek warriors and plenty of Greek folk dancing.

The allure of this multifaceted event is simply how unique it is to the city. There is no better way to immerse yourself in the rich culture put on display at the Greek Festival. Additionally, this local tradition supports the community by donating proceeds to various charities. This festival is one of the best parts of Columbia and shouldn't be missed.



COURTESY OF JOE MCELVEEN

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retail

BEST GROCERY STORE

Publix



LAURRYN THOMAS

The one-stop shop for all your grocery and fresh food needs is none other than the classic neighborhood Publix on Gervais Street. With customer service unparalleled, it is never a surprise to see a Publix employee helping someone out to their car or offering a warm smile at the checkout register. Not only does Publix have nearly every grocery you could need, this supermarket also offers the best cooked food on the go. You can't go to a Publix without smelling the fried chicken and macaroni and cheese freshly prepared in the deli and ordering an amazing "Pub Sub." Publix is famous for its sub sandwiches that always include fresh ingredients and are made right in front of you. That high standard also extends to Publix's always-fresh produce and the affordable and healthy "Greenwise" brand that is certified USDA organic.

Publix is within walking distance to campus and is always bustling with students doing their weekly

shopping in the convenient Gervais Place center. If this Publix is too busy on a weekend day, no worries, because they now offer online shopping where a service can either drop off your groceries for a small fee or you can pick up your ordered groceries with a free curbside service. It is no wonder that Publix was voted as the favorite grocery store among students for its unbeatable convenience and quality standards. When walking into a Publix, there is no doubt that you can find reliable prices and amazing food, not to mention the lines are always reasonable, despite how busy the store may be. Publix makes grocery shopping something you'll look forward to!

201 Gervais St.
7 a.m. - 10 p.m.

BEST BOOKSTORE, BEST PLACE TO GET GAMECOCK GEAR

USC Barnes & Noble
at Russell House

CAITLIN NEBEL

Is there anything you'll need in the course of a day that the USC campus bookstore can't provide? That's a hard question to answer, given the vast array of items you can buy from the souped-up Barnes and Noble. School supplies and textbooks? Check. Books and magazines? Always there. Decor for your room, essentials to stock up on and fun food that tastes great but can also be stowed away for when you don't want to leave your bed is all available in the same place. And, of course, there's the large selection

of Gamecock apparel to outfit your whole family, from onesies to baseball hats.

Purchase online and conveniently pick up everything you need — and everything you'd just like to have — from the campus bookstore. Before you leave, head to the attached Starbucks to relax in a big chair or sit outside at one of the tables and watch the pedestrians on Greene Street go by.

1400 Greene St.





COURTESY OF CAROLINE MOORE

631 Harden St.
 Monday-Friday
 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Saturday
 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Sunday
 1- 5 p.m.

BEST CLOTHING STORE

Vestique

LAURRYN THOMAS

Vestique clothing boutique has been a favorite of Gamecocks for years, as it sits in a convenient Five Points corner that cannot be missed. Vestique offers all the latest fashions for every season and acts as a style inspiration every time you walk through the doors. The store started in Raleigh, North Carolina, and now has eight stores in the Southeast that specialize in young, Southern style perfect for tailgates, parties and work.

When walking into Vestique, you are sure to be greeted by salespeople wearing some of the latest styles who are there to offer help and opinions for all shoppers seeking a special something to add to their closets. Some may say the best part

of the boutique is when you walk up the wooden stairs to the loft area that holds all of the sale items. With racks of clothes and shoes always on sale, Vestique offers something for every price range.

Vestique also has an online shop with everything in the store in case you want to conveniently shop on the website. In this hot clothing store, there are no guarantees that the shirt you want won't be snatched up within the hour. In this case, the online ordering system is quick and effective in getting the styles you want after hours or when they run out. For all these reasons, you can count on Vestique to find fun and trendy pieces for every season and occasion.

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BEST SODA CITY RETAIL VENDOR

Mast General Store

1601 Main St.
 Monday-Friday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Saturday: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
 Sunday: noon - 6 p.m.



JORDAN WARREN

LAURRYN THOMAS

Nothing compares to the sheer nostalgia that hits you when walking into a Mast General Store. Located on Main Street in downtown Columbia, Mast General Store is a must-visit when strolling through the city any day of the week. The building that Mast General occupies dates back to the 1870s and has a long history of tenure by a grocery store owner, clothing store owners and even an undertaker.

In 2011, Mast General Store arrived to the neighborhood and cemented the vintage aesthetic that remains in the old building to this day, perfectly located beside the Nickelodeon Theatre on the corner of Main and Taylor streets. Offering products like old-timey candies served in barrels, outdoor clothing and gear and toys from yesteryear, Mast General Store is an attraction in and of itself. The vast variety of products means it's

easy to find gifts for any type of person that you're shopping for. Whether you want a Bob Ross coloring book, a Patagonia jacket or something from the apothecary, Mast General has it.

When walking through Soda City Market on a Saturday morning, it is a treat to step into the bustling atmosphere of Mast General Store. Immediately you feel like you're in your grandparents' house with the slightly creaky wooden floors and the insane amount of knick-knacks packed into every corner and open space. When your eyes get a chance to adjust, you notice the gems at every turn. Do you need a new pair of sunglasses, socks, candles or a recipe book? Mast General Store has them. With so much to sift through, it's easy to spend hours looking at every shelf with your friends on a Saturday morning.

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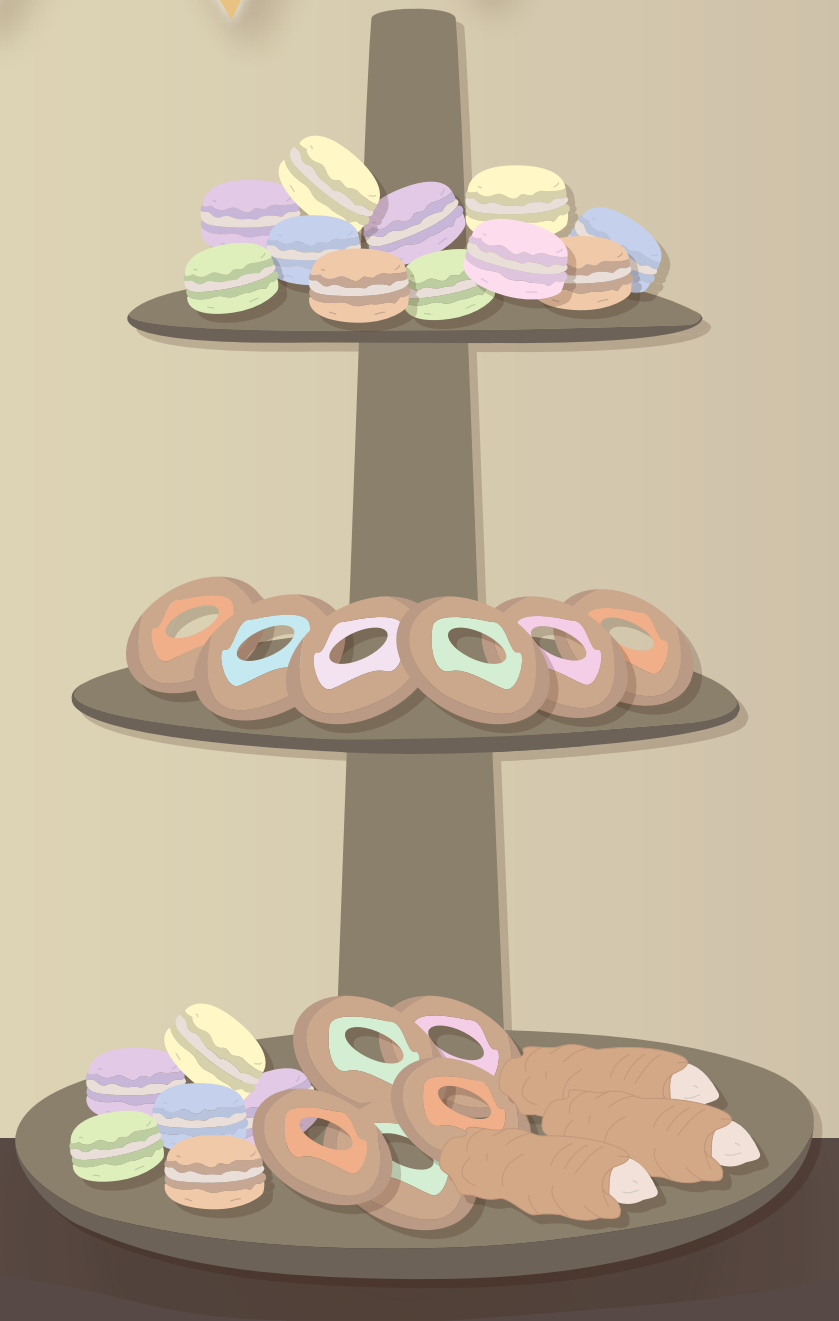
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BEST RESTAURANT TO TAKE YOUR PARENTS TO

Blue Marlin

ZACH MCKINLEY



LAURRYN THOMAS

Give your parents the gift of an authentic Southern experience while they give you the gift of a free meal. Fresh seafood is accessible and delicious at the Vista's Blue Marlin. Travel the South by ordering some Charleston crab cakes to start before indulging in Mahi Orleans — a fish topped with shrimp and crabmeat in a wine butter sauce. The decadent key lime pie is likely to become the dessert you dream about until well

after your college career is over.

The food at Blue Marlin is too good to not be shared for a special occasion, and for extra special ones, the restaurant offers its private "Vista Room" for reservations. Blue Marlin's delightful and sometimes locally-sourced ingredients taste as good as they look and impress even the most skeptical of parents. The flavors of the ocean are ready for tasting at Blue Marlin.

1200 Lincoln St.
Monday-Friday: 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
5 - 10 p.m.
Saturday: 11:30 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Sunday: 11:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.



How RAVE GUARDIAN Works:

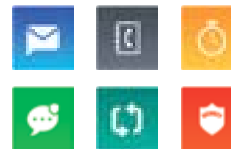
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COURTESY OF ABIGAIL BRAUN

BEST RESTAURANT TO TAKE A DATE, BEST MEXICAN FOOD

Cantina 76

CAITLIN NEBEL

Head to Devine Street or Main Street for your new go-to date night spot at Cantina 76, home of the best Mexican food in Columbia. Try a chicken pesto taco or a roasted chicken quesadilla, order a Prickly Pear margarita to go with it and enjoy the night. This restaurant is a continual favorite with above-par takes on nachos, tacos, enchiladas and more. Cantina 76 truly encompasses the title of “Best of Carolina” as it expands to the whole of the state with locations

in Greenville, Mount Pleasant and Kiawah.

There is no need to venture too far out of your comfort zone while still impressing a date because the mix of food at Cantina 76 is both familiar and exciting. Cantina 76 also offers a happy hour on weekdays from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. that includes half-priced margaritas and discounted beers. Share a Chimi cheesecake to finish a great meal and, hopefully, an even better date.

1301 Main St & 2901 Devine St.

BEST BREAKFAST/BRUNCH

The Devine Cinnamon Roll Deli



COURTESY OF CAROLINE MOORE

CAITLIN NEBEL

Since hitting Devine Street in 2016, The Devine Cinnamon Roll Deli has been not just been a local favorite, but a national one. Famously featured on Food Network for its giant Cinnamonmonster cinnamon roll that can feed 17 people, the Devine Street restaurant is a small celebrity in its own right.

There’s nothing on the menu you can go wrong ordering, from the Buffalo Turkey breakfast sandwich to the daily special grits bowls, breakfast is made perfect at The Devine Cinnamon Roll Deli. It doesn’t stop at the most important meal of the day, though, with lunch options including the Chili Philly

sandwich and the Dragged Through the Garden Dog, a hot dog with pickles, sweet onions and tomatoes. Everyone gets a taste of sweetness with a mini cinnamon roll included with each meal. A kids’ menu and varied table sizes make the small spot a family-friendly locale. If you fall in love with their topped cinnamon rolls and expertly crafted hot dogs — and you will — then have the deli cater your next event. A breakfast that’s sure to please is proudly served at The Cinnamon Roll Deli where the local art on the walls and the smiles of the patrons show community means everything to them.

2617 Devine St.
Monday: Closed
Tuesday-Sunday: 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.



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MOZZARELLA STICKS 650 CAL
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BEST LUNCH

The Gourmet Shop



ZAHIDA ASHROFF

CAITLIN NEBEL

More than just a restaurant, The Gourmet Shop offers fine wines, cigars, cookware and spices. The Five Points store is a hub for anyone interested in tasting or creating specialty foods. Inside, they sell authentic European tools for cooking as well as high-quality preserves, oils, sauces and other ingredients so you can replicate their delectable cooking at home. Wine lovers can taste from the huge collection of exquisite wines from around the world on Saturdays or take home a bottle any day of the week. For the oft-forgotten cigar connoisseur, a carefully maintained selection is available to purchase from, too.

But it is the café of The Gourmet Shop that brings not only the culinarily inclined but the casual gourmand, too, because of the delicious menu. Brunch is a must, with a particularly delicious bacon, egg and Brie croissant sandwich and mimosa buckets available to make any morning better. Enjoy a roasted shrimp salad or a charcuterie board, and before you leave, pick up an European-imported cheese or even make your own charcuterie tray to serve at the next party for friends you're looking to impress. The Gourmet Shop's luxury experience is affordable and ready for you to explore.

724 Saluda Ave.
Monday-Saturday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

BEST LUNCH

Groucho's Deli

CAITLIN NEBEL

This Columbia-based restaurant has been a part of the community since 1941 and, due to its popularity, successfully expanded to locations across the Carolinas. Groucho's is a legendary deli with plenty of famous sauces and subs to its name. The "fast, fresh & original" lunch spot is home to the Formula 45 sauce, the Apollo Dipper sub, and original potato salad and coleslaw that it was founded upon.

Today, the restaurant offers dozens of options from classic sandwiches to BLTs and from pitas to salads and soups. The ever-growing menu is as vast as the sprawl of the restaurants through

the Carolinas. The deli is a classic and it shows in the love of their perfectly done menu items. You can feel the expertise in the air at Groucho's Deli, it's no wonder the restaurant has been a consistent go-to for many in Columbia and beyond.

611 Harden St.
Monday-Saturday:
11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday:
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.



ETHAN LAM



JORDAN WARREN

BEST SUSHI

Tsunami

CAITLIN NEBEL

It's hard to beat the great taste of the Vista's Tsunami. The Japanese restaurant is the king of sushi in Columbia with specialty and regular rolls as well as sashimi. Tsunami doesn't stop at sushi, though. A wide selection of entrées features short ribs and white fish for lunch and hibachi and noodles for dinner. Choose from interesting options like pineapple fried rice and garlic

teriyaki or go for classic favorites such as pad thai and yaki soba.

The options are varied and the flavors exciting. A daily happy hour offers half-priced sake and early dinner specials include three sushi rolls for \$12. Tsunami is a continued favorite for its unbeatable menu and affordable pricing. Enjoy the taste of Japan right here in the Vista.

700 Gervais St.

Monday-Saturday: 4 - 11:30 p.m.

Sunday: 4 - 10:30 p.m.

BEST BURGERS

Pawley's Front Porch



ABIGAIL GREEN

HALLIE HAYES

What does a Southerner like more than a freshly cooked burger? A freshly cooked burger so good that it was featured on Food Network.

That's right — everyone's favorite burger joint, Pawleys Front Porch, had their infamous "Fripp Island Burger" featured on Guy Fieri's Food Network show "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives."

This half-pound burger is smothered in a delicious southern salsa, boursin cheese and a tangy fried green tomato. Though this burger joint is particularly known for this colossal feat of a burger, it's the fresh, seasoned ground beef that creates these tasty burgers daily. More particularly, it's the toppings that you can put on your burger: grilled pineapple, grape jelly, jalapeno, mayonnaise and more.

Oh, but you're feeling a bit of seafood? No worries! Pawleys has you covered in that department,

too! From buffalo shrimp to mahi mahi tacos, there is something to fit everyone's unique taste.

In addition to the Columbia mainstay, Pawleys also has locations in Beaufort and Rock Hill. With outdoor seating perfect for a beautiful day and a Southern deliciousness ready to please your appetite, grab a few friends and enjoy the many delicious options at Pawleys Front Porch!

827 Harden St.

Monday-Thursday:

11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Friday-Saturday:

11 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Sunday:

noon - 9 p.m.

BEST LATE-NIGHT EATS

• • • • •

Cook Out



HANNAH WADE

HALLIE HAYES

Affordable, tasty and conveniently located in the main bar district in Columbia, Cook Out is the perfect place to grab a quick bite after a night out. Why? Because you can find them open until 4 a.m.!

Cook Out offers a variety of options from burgers to quesadillas and corn dogs to BBQ sandwiches. Get a Cook Out tray, which consists of three menu items and a large drink, for less than \$6 — undoubtedly the perfect deal for financially limited college students!

You can't visit Cook Out without trying one of their 100+ different flavors of milkshakes. Stop by in July and August for the seasonally available and particularly refreshing watermelon milkshake. Grab a few friends and try different flavors to find the perfect choice for any mood.

Enjoy indoor seating, outdoor

seating or quick service by using the double-lane drive-through!. Cook Out is a true banger with multiple options and prices that will keep you coming back for more. So, the next time you are out and need something to fill that void in your stomach at 2 a.m., visit Cook Out.

1101 Harden St.
Monday-Thursday,
Sunday:
10:30 a.m. - 4 a.m.
Friday-Saturday:
10:30 a.m. - 5 a.m.



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JORDAN WARREN

BEST DESSERT

Kaminsky's Dessert Cafe

HALLIE HAYES

Kaminsky's Dessert Cafe can boast yet another year as a favorite place to get decadent desserts. Open until midnight on weekdays and 2 a.m. on weekends, Kaminsky's is located in the heart of the city, the Vista, and the staff is ready to serve you some of the best desserts in the Carolinas.

From unique drinks to desserts of all different sizes waiting to fulfill your craving, Kaminsky's has a menu that offers almost more than you could dream of. Try a mixed drink including Godiva white chocolate liqueur or Svedka vanilla vodka, select the perfect slice from a case of fresh-baked cakes and pies from their bakery, or enjoy a delicious

cookie sundae. The options, though they're all sweet, are almost overwhelming!

Kaminsky's is famous for its gourmet milkshakes, which you can even make alcoholic or, in their words, "adult style." Try the famous and fan-favorite s'mores shake. You truly can't go wrong with any of the options that Kaminsky's has to offer.

Kaminsky's is upscale and well-decorated, making it perfect for a date night or a night out with friends. The atmosphere is grand and the desserts are delicious; you'll just have to try them all for yourself.

930 Gervais St.

Monday-Thursday: 4 p.m. - midnight

Friday: 4 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Saturday: noon - 2 a.m.

Sunday: noon - 12 a.m.

LAURRYN THOMAS

Formerly known as "Yoghut," The Corner Blend is taking on a new persona with the same classic taste. The Corner Blend offers a healthy selection of yogurts, acai bowls, smoothies, coffee and tea. This is the perfect spot to meet up with friends or classmates for a treat. Open until 11 p.m., The Corner Blend is conveniently located on campus. It's just a short walk up the street from the Strom Thurmond Wellness and Fitness Center, perfect for when you want an post-workout energy boost.

Recently renovated, The Corner Blend now offers customers a sophisticated and fresh new décor scheme. Dark wooden walls

and greenery make it feel like a modern, calm environment for anyone wanting to grab a healthy snack and hang out for a while.

The Corner Blend now serves freshly roasted and local Indah Coffee and healthy breakfast options like specialty oatmeals. Additionally, the açai bowl menu has expanded with the change from Yoghut to The Corner Blend. One amazing bowl to try is the "Brazilian Crush" that has açai topped with granola, banana, strawberries, blueberries, coconut shavings and honey. Remember to ask for your açai blended!

BEST FROZEN YOGURT

The Corner Blend



JORDAN WARREN

601 Main St.

Monday-Saturday: 9:30 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Sunday: 10:30 a.m. - 11 p.m.

BEST LOCAL COFFEE SHOP

Cool Beans



GRACE STEPTOE

1217 College St.

Monday-Friday: 7 a.m. - midnight

Saturday-Sunday: 9 a.m. - midnight

LAURRYN THOMAS

USC's go-to campus coffee shop is the ever-laid-back and convenient Cool Beans. Cool Beans takes residence on the second floor of a big, brick house that's just a short walk from the Horseshoe. This coffee shop offers the perfect refuge for college students who need caffeine and a quiet place to study from the early morning until midnight. With hours this conducive to a student's schedule, it is no wonder that Cool Beans is a haven for coffee drinkers and students all times of the day and night.

Not only does Cool Beans offer a wide variety of specialty coffee drinks on their menu, but you can even get a bite to eat here from their selection of soups, salads, sandwiches, breakfast items and baked goods. Favorites range from their cinnamon rolls and bagels to the healthier options of

the veggie overload wrap and the Mediterranean panini. Any way you toss it, Cool Beans is a dependable stop for refueling on food and caffeine.

One of the best parts of Cool Beans is the atmosphere of the shop. Upon walking in, you are surrounded by mismatched, comfy furniture and plenty of tables to sit and relax or play one of the many different games lining shelves around the seating areas. The giant chalkboard menus give thorough descriptions of each food item and describe the different coffee drinks to choose from. Grab a cup of the coffee of the day, which usually features beans from various places around the world, always roasted to perfection and brewed fresh.

BEST DELIVERY

Domino's

HALLIE HAYES

It's past midnight and your stomach is growling but you don't want to leave your dorm. Pizza sounds wonderful! Lucky for you, pizza can become a reality, and yes, you can remain in the comfort of your pajamas in your dorm!

Domino's is the go-to place for late-night pizza. With many locations around the Columbia area, it is easy to find one close enough to deliver to you! For a fee of just \$2.99, Domino's will deliver right to your doorstep. The best part? They deliver as late as 3 a.m., taking care of the majority of those late-night pizza cravings. This is perfect for after a late movie with

friends or for when you need a study break snack. Domino's offers many items such as cheesy bread, cinnamon twists, pasta, subs and, of course, pizza.

The delivery staff is friendly, and they have one of the quickest delivery services around — usually about 20 minutes. A simple phone call or online order can quickly begin the process of getting a pizza into your hands. The next time you are craving a late-night meal and you don't want to leave the comfort of your home, call Domino's. They'll take care of you!



ZAHIDA ASHROFF

BEST PLACE THAT TAKES CAROLINA CASH, BEST MEAL SPECIAL

Moe's Southwest Grill



COURTESY OF PHILLIPP FULGENCIO

HALLIE HAYES

USC students love when they find a restaurant that takes CarolinaCash, but they especially love that Moe's Southwest Grill is one of them. Burritos, quesadillas, burritos bowls and more — no matter what your order, they can customize it! Moe's is known for its Tex-Mex menu, but more importantly, it's known for the huge variety of ingredients and toppings available to make each and every dish exactly what you want. They make your food quickly and right in front of you, with a nearly foolproof burrito-rolling technique, and they've been doing this for over 15 years.

The menu at Moe's is full of creative names that you may not understand but you'll have a fun time discovering which movies

and pop culture they reference. Don't worry, everyone's favorite item, the queso, is perfectly recognizable — the only thing to discover there is how delicious it is. Moe's Southwest Grill is a fun and creative place to spend your next meal, with creative décor representing what the name stands for: "Musicians, Outlaws and Entertainers." Who would have known?

With a friendly staff and a customizable meal, Moe's is the place you'll want to spend your CarolinaCash! You'll be happy to walk in and hear the employees shout, "Welcome to Moe's!"

625 Main St.

Monday-Sunday: 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.

PRERANA SHIDHAYE

The Baked Bear franchise was started by two childhood friends, Rob Robbins and Shane Stanger. Robbins and Stanger left their corporate jobs to follow their passion of serving up inventive desserts in their hometown of San Diego, California. Baked Bear sweets have won the hearts of millions nationwide and received extensive praise from Eater, Forbes and more. After opening a new store in Five Points in 2018, The Baked Bear immediately became a big hit for locals and college students alike.

The Baked Bear provides the perfect combination of aesthetically appealing and scrumptious desserts. Fans of the classic ice cream sandwich need to look no further; The Baked Bear offers quality ice cream and made-from-scratch cookies with a twist. Baked

Bear boasts a large assortment of ice cream flavors ranging from blackberry crumble to toasted s'mores. Customers can choose to order the ice cream alone (in a cup or a cone) or ask for it to be served as the center of a delectable ice cream sandwich.

The Baked Bear makes their diverse cookie selection from scratch on a daily basis. Some of the most popular cookie flavors include funfetti cake, oatmeal cinnamon and snickerdoodle. It's even possible to mix two different cookie flavors together! Customers also have the option of adding toppings to their creations, including Oreo crumbs, hot fudge and fruity pebbles.

Don't miss this sweet new addition to the Five Points food scene.

BEST NEW RESTAURANT

The Baked Bear



ZACH MCKINLEY

631 Harden St. Suite C

BEST BREWERY



River Rat Brewery



ZACH MCKINLEY

HALLIE HAYES

For yet another year, River Rat Brewery is the city's favorite place to grab a local craft beer. Located on Shop Road, River Rat Brewery serves up good, craft beer and Southern hospitality. River Rat Brewery has been perfecting its craft since 2013, and it has only grown since then. Not only does this brewery serve you at the Shop Road location, but you can also buy canned versions of the craft beers in select stores.

With a changing selection of beers, River Rat has something for everyone. Come enjoy a seasonal beer like the winter warmer ale or try a yearround staple like the Broad

River red ale. You can't go wrong with either option.

Enjoy lunch in the open taproom Tuesday through Friday or attend one of the brewery's multiple events like Sunday Funday/brunch or trivia on Thursdays. This is the perfect place to bring a few friends for a relaxed atmosphere. You can enjoy outdoor seating on their lovely dog-friendly patio or sit indoors and meet the friendly and knowledgeable staff.

Interested in seeing how the magic happens? Email the event staff a day or two ahead and schedule a group tour to see the facility and parts of the brewing process.

1231 Shop Rd.

Tuesday-Wednesday: noon - 9 p.m.
 Thursday: noon - 10 p.m.
 Friday: noon - 11 p.m.
 Saturday: 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.
 Sunday: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

1500 Main St.
 Saturday: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

HALLIE HAYES

There is nothing Columbia residents of all ages love more than a relaxing Saturday strolling through Main Street at the well-known Soda City Market. It has become a favorite of the community. With multiple local vendors selling homemade crafts and a variety of foods, there is one food truck in particular that has been loved by many: the Belgian Waffle Truck.

The Belgian Waffle Truck is like no other, offering delicious waffles including their famous "Strawwaffle." Topped with whipped cream, strawberries and

powdered sugar, this is one that keeps locals coming back for more! You can get a variety of different toppings on your waffle, including syrups, sugars and fruits.

If you're looking for something less sweet, don't worry because they have more to offer. Try one of their waffle sandwiches with bacon, egg and cheese or a garden burger nestled between two waffles.

You can find the Belgian Waffle Truck on Saturdays at Soda City Market, but it also appears at other Columbia events. If the red, vibrant truck doesn't draw you in, the smell of delicious waffles will!

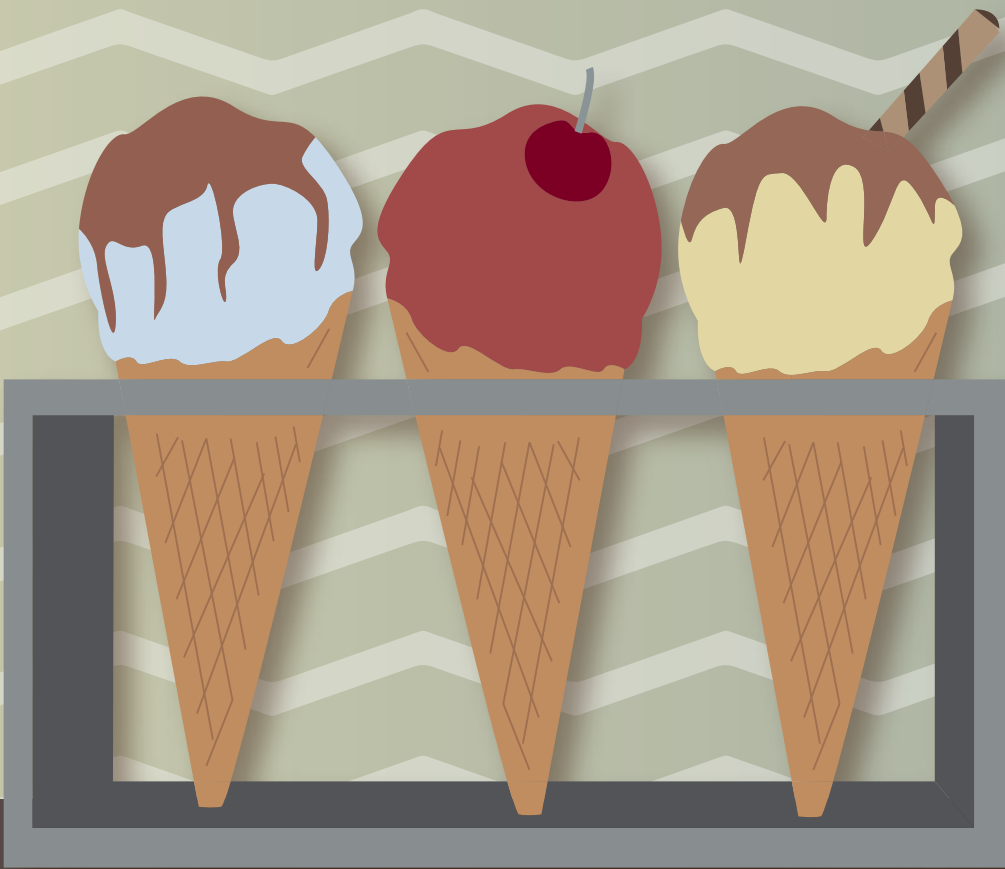
BEST SODA CITY FOOD VENDOR



Belgian Waffle Truck



ABIGAIL GREEN



BEST AUTO REPAIR

Firestone Complete Auto Care

1738 Gervais St.



HALLIE HAYES

Let's face it, car problems love to attack us at the most inconvenient times, like when you are running late for work or class. It's even worse when you aren't sure of a reliable place to go to with these problems. Lucky for you, Firestone Complete Auto Care is there for your every car repair need. Firestone has multiple locations around the Columbia area, including one located conveniently near campus on Gervais Street. From oil changes and tire replacements to full vehicle inspections, Firestone offers it all. Prices vary depending on the service that you request,

but there are no surprises. Talk to them about the price ahead of time and they will give you a quote.

The best part is that Firestone treats all of their customers like family. You'll have a wonderful experience with the friendly employees who devote their time to your happiness. With quick service and walk-ins available, they never let you or your car down. The next time you have car troubles, don't fret. Give Firestone Complete Auto Care a call and they will be more than happy to save the day!

1001 Harden St.

Monday-Friday: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

HALLIE HAYES

After a long day of overwhelming classes, the perfect cure could be unwinding at Columbia's favorite nail spot, Campus Nails & Spa.

Campus Nails & Spa offers several different services from French manicures for your next formal to a gel acrylic set with a rainbow's worth of colors. Expert-level technicians can create custom nail art and are known for doing meticulous, high-quality work. Enjoy a spa pedicure complete with hot towels to exfoliate and a leg massage to relax in one of the luxury spa

chairs, or get your eyebrows or lip waxed by professional aestheticians. Special occasion or not, you deserve to treat yourself. Prices vary depending on the service requested, but services are affordable.

Campus Nails & Spa will leave you feeling like a new person. So, the next time you've had a hard day and need to just relax, come to Campus Nails & Spa and let them take care of you. You deserve it!

BEST NAIL/WAXING SALON

Campus Nails & Spa in Five Points



BEST HAIR SALON

Five Points Salon



JORDAN WARREN

LAURRYN THOMAS

When in need of a cut and color, readers agreed that the Five Points Salon is your best bet. As an Aveda Concept Salon, Five Points Salon aims to bring a relaxing experience to every customer by using award-winning Aveda products in a gorgeous, clean space. Services include haircuts, colors, highlights, partial highlights, makeup and waxing. You can go to Five Points Salon for special occasions to get updos and makeup or for regular hair maintenance appointments. Prices are reasonable with a classic haircut starting at \$35.

Chairs are expertly set up in front of full-length mirrors and the salon boasts trendy and contemporary décor with pops of color in the large paintings around the room. There are four staff members with whom to make an appointment through booking online or on the phone. Owner of Five Points Salon, Mark Zeigler, is an experienced hair artist and has been nominated by the Free Times for the Best Hair Stylist award three times. When looking to book a collaborative hair experience by the best staff in Columbia, look no further than Blossom Street in Five Points.

2000 Blossom St.

Tuesday-Friday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

BEST OFF-CAMPUS LIVING

Greene Crossing

PRERANA SHIDHAYE

Greene Crossing offers a blend of state-of-the-art amenities that mesh comfort, quality and intricate design together in a beautiful living community. The facility is relatively new and is extremely well maintained. Since its construction, Greene Crossing has been deemed a popular choice for off-campus housing for students attending USC. Its location on Pulaski Street proves to be perfect for college students as it is nearly walking distance from campus and offers a shuttle service for students who don't wish to drive.

Community residents can take advantage of a great selection of

amenities like a clubhouse, game room and fitness center. From amenities to floorplan options, Greene Crossing's team of leasing professionals is ready to help anyone in need of a perfect place to live. At Greene Crossing, the community professionals strive to provide the very best of service to their residents, as well as maintain and run an exceptional property. This past year, Greene Crossing was the first student housing complex in the Columbia area to pre-lease its apartments, and the commitment has proven highly satisfactory to current and future residents.



ZAHIDA ASHROFF

708 Pulaski St.

Monday-Friday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday: 1 - 5 p.m.

BEST GYM

Strom Thurmond Fitness and Wellness Center



HALLIE HAYES

Rock climbing, an indoor track, weights, cardio machines, a pool, outdoor volleyball, multiple courts — it sounds like the perfect gym, right? Because it is!

Strom Thurmond Fitness and Wellness Center, commonly known as Strom, is a three-story gym located just minutes from central campus. Strom is the perfect place to play sports with your friends, stay on track with a resolution or simply become a healthier you. If the location isn't convenient enough for all USC students, the fact that there are

endless opportunities and things to do at this gym should pull you in. Students can even rent the courts or fields to use for sports nights for their student organizations.

Strom offers multiple personal training packages from one-on-one training to group fitness classes. GroupX is a great motivator, since classes are scheduled, and you can feel comfortable in classes led by trained instructors.

No matter your activity level or pace, Strom has something for everyone to enjoy.

1000 Blossom St.

Monday-Friday: 6 a.m. - midnight

Saturday-Sunday: 8 a.m. - 11 p.m.

WEDGE - WE KNOW MAC

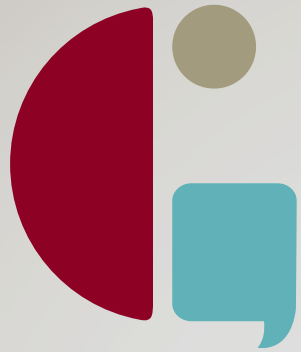
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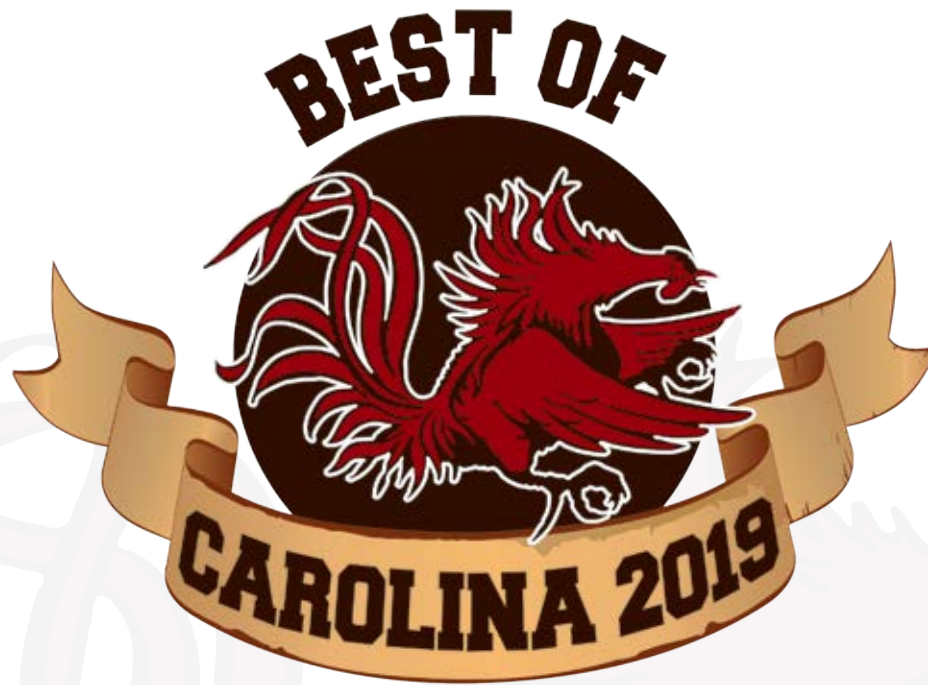
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