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2022
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Home Team BBQ

Best Breakfast/Brunch
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Immaculate Body Piercing

Best Pizza
Village Idiot

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## Attritions

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DEAR BEST OF CAROLINA 2022 READERS,

Whether you’re an incoming student looking for an organization to join, a visiting family wondering where to get lunch after your campus tour, or a Columbia resident searching for somewhere new – this publication is for you!

We’ve been working to make Best of Carolina 2022 special for over a year, collecting nominations and votes since March 2021. Thanks to our audience sending in the most votes of any Best of Carolina, this year’s publication truly showcases who the UofSC and Columbia communities consider to be the best of the best.

Last year, I added “editor’s picks” – my personal choice in a variety of categories. The addition of editor’s picks sparked a chain reaction, now bringing in the voices of various UofSC deans and Columbia influencers, like Dawn Staley. I am happy to say that Best of Carolina 2022 recognizes more businesses than ever before, with a heavy emphasis on locally owned businesses!

This would not be possible without a variety of people – including the writers, photographers, editors and, especially, the design team. Each page takes you on a journey into space because we believe all our winners are “out of this world.” I am speechless over the work this team has done and couldn’t miss the opportunity to say thank you.

Last but certainly not least – if you have a go-to place in Columbia, nominate them to win Best of Carolina 2023 by scanning the QR code! Follow Garnet Media Group on Instagram (@garnetmediagroup), Twitter and Facebook (@garnetmedia) to stay updated on nominations, voting, and the rest of Garnet Media Group’s student-produced work!

Gracie Bryant
Editor-in-Chief, Best of Carolina 2022
Marketing Director, Garnet Media Group
BEST OF
ON CAMPUS
**BEST ON CAMPUS STUDY SPOT**

**THOMAS COOPER LIBRARY**

By Tyler Sprague

There is no doubt that the Thomas Cooper Library — better known as T-Coop — is the best place to study on campus, but with so many floors and endless hallways, where is the actual best study spot? Having spent a lot of time in the library, my go-to spot is floor 4.

The fourth floor is home to the infamous Tech Coops. These rooms are often booked, but if you manage to get a reservation, they are the best places to study. They can house anywhere from three to five people, have a fully usable TV and charging ports and even controllable air conditioning and lighting. While not the quietest floor, people are quite respectful with the volume of their voices. All of this creates what I believe to be the best study environment in T-Coop.

**BEST ON CAMPUS RESIDENT HALL**

**PATTERSON HALL**

By Rachel Jackson

Located on Devine Street, Patterson is placed in an ideal area that is only a short walking distance to all of UofSC’s amenities and classrooms. Patterson also stands above the rest for its cleanliness and newness. This residence hall was completely remodeled in 2011 to give it a modern clean look. Now it includes nine floors with a kitchen, lounge space, and two meeting rooms per floor. Patterson Hall is suite style living, meaning two people share a bedroom and sink and share a bathroom with two other people.

I loved my time living in Patterson Hall freshman year, and it felt like I was living in a hotel with how modern, clean, bright and open everything was.

**SJMC ROOFTOP GARDEN**

By Gracie Bryant

I’ll admit — I thought about keeping this one a secret, but everybody needs to experience the School of Journalism and Mass Communication’s rooftop on a beautiful spring day. Most of the time, I head up to focus and get work done, but the vibes are too strong and I end up just taking the time to relax. Regardless of what I’m up there for, it’s the best time every time — especially when the flowers have bloomed! The rooftop patio is located on the third floor of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. There are limited tables, but if you can’t find a seat outside, take a stroll around the “J-School” and settle into one of the many designated study areas.

**LOCATION:**

800 Sumter St.
Many students who come to UofSC choose to rush a sorority or a fraternity on campus for a variety of reasons, including making new friends, getting involved in community service or simply to stay busy. With over 20 fraternities on campus, Kappa Sigma was voted the number one choice for Best Fraternity for the second year in a row.

Kappa Sigma, known as KappaSig within the Carolina community, is heavily involved on campus, throughout the city of Columbia, and within their philanthropy. The Chi Omega chapter here at UofSC prides itself in fellowship, leadership, scholarship and service.

The brotherhood KappaSig demonstrates is unbeatable for another year, while they continue to be role models for the other fraternities on campus. As seen from their strong alumni bond, this type of brotherhood lasts forever, and all these men came together for Kappa Sigma.

Alpha Delta Pi, the Best Sorority 2022 winner, was founded in 1851 at Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia, making them the oldest sorority in the world. This sorority follows their motto “We Live For Each Other” and employs “leadership, service to others and sisterhood” in everything they do.

Alpha Delta Pi prides themselves on philanthropy efforts with the Ronald McDonald House, a nonprofit charity dedicated to supporting families with sick children in times of need. They are also heavily involved across campus.

“You will find our sisters a part of academic fraternities, student government, the university ambassador program, intramural sports teams, on-campus clubs, etc,” UoSC freshman Maia Bennet said.

However, the most important impact they have is on each other through their sisterhood. There’s truly a reason why Alpha Delta Pi is “First. Finest. Forever.” “The friendships made in ADPi transcend ADPi itself. Here, we find our life long best friends,” Bennet said.
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GETTING OUT OF YOUR LAST CLASS OR HAVE SOME TIME IN BETWEEN? THEN IT'S TIME TO EAT! WITH THE ABUNDANCE OF DINING OPTIONS ON CAMPUS, YOU WOULD ASSUME THE BEST PLACE TO EAT ON CAMPUS WOULDN'T BE FAST FOOD ... RIGHT? THE STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, INCLUDING MYSELF, SAY WRONG. CHICK-FIL-A HAS BEEN VOTED THE BEST ON-CAMPUS EATS BY STUDENTS, AND I AGREE!

CHICK-FIL-A

BY TYLER SPRAGUE

Getting out of your last class or have some time in between? Then it’s time to eat! With the abundance of dining options on campus, you would assume the best place to eat on campus wouldn’t be fast food ... right? The students of the University of South Carolina, including myself, say wrong. Chick-fil-A has been voted the best on-campus eats by students, and I agree! Chick-fil-A has been voted the best place to eat on campus for the fourth year in a row simply because you can get the most of a retail meal at the expense of a single meal swipe. And, honestly, what’s better than that for a college student?

If you’ve ever taken BIO101 there’s a good chance you’ve had an opportunity to meet Professor Dhameja - he’s been at UofSC for more than a decade! Known for his engaging and funny lectures, you’ll be able to remember why the mitochondria is the powerhouse of the cell and more!

Take a lunch break with your friends at:

CHICK-FIL-A

BY TYLER SPRAGUE

14 hour main event. 24 years and counting. $7.2 million raised. 150,000 children’s lives impacted. This is what Dance Marathon is all about. USC Dance Marathon is the largest student-run philanthropic organization on campus devoted to raising funds and awareness for the Child Life Program at Prisma Health Children’s Hospital.

Don’t get discouraged by the name (no dancing skills are required). It may seem like a long time to be on your feet, you know what they say, “time flies when you’re having fun!” The event is jam-packed with fun activities like line dancing, games and contests, and live performances from musicians, comedians and more that are sure to keep you from watching the clock.

However the most moving part of the event is hearing from miracle families who share their stories as a reminder that this organization truly makes a difference in the lives of children all around South Carolina.

“Hearing their story made me realize the organization I had joined on a whim truly impacted real kids. Hearing their story brought me to tears and inspired me to get more involved in the future,” Dance Marathon staff member Brinna Day said.

If you are still looking for a sign to join the USC Dance Marathon, here it is: this is its seventh year in a row being voted the best student organization at UofSC. That’s a pretty big deal!
By Gracie Bryant

Garnet Media Group is the Office of Student Media at UofSC. Our partnership includes four student-run organizations: The Daily Gamecock newspaper, WUSC-FM radio, SGTV television and Garnet and Black Magazine. GMG also includes teams that focus on marketing (that’s me), podcasting, graphic design and advertising sales. The best thing about Garnet Media Group is that whether you’re interested in reporting on breaking news, styling a fashion shoot or hosting a unique radio show, we’ve got you covered! Garnet Media Group is open to any major or experience level.

Interested in joining? Recruitment happens at the beginning of every semester — typically January and August. The best way to stay up-to-date is to follow us on social media where we’ll post our interest meetings, upcoming events and general organization news. Scan the QR code to stay in touch!

**BEST OF HARRIS PASTIDES**

**INTERIM UofSC PRESIDENT**

**Best Breakfast/Brunch:** Carolina Bagel

**Best Coffee Shop:** Cool Beans

**Best on Campus Spot:** ODK sundial Garden

**Best Lunch:** MVISTA or Five Guys

**Best Social Outing:** Soda City Market - Saturday morning

**Best Place for a Fancy Dinner:** Il Giorgione or Halls Chophouse

**Best Dessert:** Il Giorgione
JULIE SEASE
INTERIM DEAN OF
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Best Breakfast/Brunch: Gourmet Shop
Best Coffee Shop: Cool Beans
Best On-Campus Spot: McCutcheon House
Best Lunch: Immaculate Consumption
Best Social Outing: Riverbanks Zoo
Best Place for a Fancy Dinner: Cola’s or Hall’s Chophouse
Best Dessert: Kaminsky’s
BEST OF
FOOD AND BEVERAGE
Best BBQ / Ribs

Home Team BBQ

By Rachel Jackson

If you are looking for the best place to socialize, watch a sports game or eat the best BBQ and ribs in all of Columbia, Home Team BBQ is the place to be!

I had the privilege of talking with one of their chefs to get the inside scoop on what makes Home Team BBQ stand out above the rest. Ervin Abbott, Home Team BBQ chef is a 2016 UofSC alum from the school of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management. Since graduating, he has worked at Midwood Smokehouse and joined Home Team BBQ in 2020. He is also a featured chef at the Masters this year.

Abbott’s favorite item to order for himself: the smokey, crispy fried ribs covered in Alabama white sauce. Not a big ribs fan? No worries. Home Team offers a variety of other foods such as carnitas tacos, brunswick stew, fried mac and cheese and nachos. To wash it all down, I would recommend a Game Changer because — if you can’t tell from the name — this drink truly changes games.

The next time you are in the mood for good southern BBQ, check out Best of Carolina Best BBQ/Ribs winner, Home team BBQ.

Best Pizza

Village Idiot

By Lauren Russo

Village Idiot’s New York-style pizza is what draws you in, but it’s the high-quality yet affordable menu items that keep everyone lining up outside the door.

The extensive list of specials has pizza to suit everyone’s cravings, including:

“Village Special!” with pepperoni, Italian sausage, mushrooms, green peppers, onions and black olives
“Freshman Fifteen” with pepperoni, extra cheese and a side of ranch
“Chicken Hibachi” which has a teriyaki base with chicken, broccoli, red onion with a swirl of sriracha and yum yum sauce

And for all the pizza purests out there, don’t worry — there’s a reason its cheese pizza is a staple at almost everyone’s table right next to a $5 Bud Light pitcher during Happy Hour Thursdays!

With its amazing deals and great atmosphere, it’s no wonder this Columbia staple has won Best Pizza in Best of Carolina
Can't figure out where to take your grandparents when they visit? Still don't know where to go for your graduation night dinner? Look no farther than this year’s winner of Best Place for a Fancy Dinner, Halls Chophouse Columbia.

Conveniently located close to campus on Main Street and right across the street from the Statehouse, it's the perfect place for a celebratory dinner, date night or just a change of pace!

Halls Chophouse serves high-end steaks directly from the top meat distributor in Chicago, Allen Brothers, and the difference speaks for itself! You can choose from filet mignon, dry-aged, New York strip, ribeye or porterhouse steaks.

Not in the mood for steak? With lengthy brunch, lunch and dinner menus, there is something for everybody to enjoy!

With an elegant dining room and covered patio, Halls Chophouse has everything you need for a beautiful dinner with even better food.

By Lauren Russo

HOURS:
Mon. - Thurs. : 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Fri. - Sat. : 11 a.m. - 12 a.m.
Sun. : 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

BEST PLACE FOR A FANCY DINNER
HALLS CHOPHOUSE

GET A INTER-GALACTIC BURGER AT:
BEST BURGER
FIVE GUYS

TRY SOME FRESH MARTIAN PRODUCE AT:
BEST VEGETARIAN / VEGAN
ZOES KITCHEN
COOL BEANS COFFEE CO.

By Kaylin Daniels

Start your day off right by treating yourself to a delicious pick-me-up from Cool Beans Coffee Co. Located just steps off the Horseshoe, Cool Beans Coffee Co. is a quaint house turned business with a cozy, calm and inviting atmosphere. Head up to the second floor for Cool Beans because the first floor is College Grounds.

I normally order a hot black coffee, but decided to go with an iced coffee with English toffee nut and cream. It was flavorful, smooth, and I highly recommend! With a large menu ranging from espresso and tea to pastries and yogurt parfaits, there's something for everyone to enjoy. They even have ground coffee available for purchase so you can take Cool Beans with you wherever you go!

Drop by before, in between or after class. See what the celebration is about, and don't forget to say “hello” to Kitty and her wonderful staff!

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- recovery lounge/study space

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Fill up on tacos at:
**BEST LUNCH**
**CANTINA 76**

By Sarah Fulwider
After your morning pick-me-up, treat yourself to the lunch you deserve. Cantina 76 has a large variety of tacos, local beers and signature margaritas. Its loyal customers never tire of trying new pairings, but the heavenly chips and queso is a staple no matter what. The accommodating and friendly staff ensure you the best experience. The outdoor seating on Main Street is perfect for people-watching downtown, and Devine Street’s is cozy and welcoming. Whatever atmosphere you’re looking for, you can find it at Cantina 76 along with great prices and tasty food.

Try a new brew at:
**BEST BREWERY**
**RIVER RAT BREWERY**

By Sarah Fulwider
Wrap up the perfect day with something to take the edge off. Bring your dog, bring your baby, bring your friends and join the Rat Pac. River Rat Brewery, our eight-year-reigning Best Brewery winner, opened in 2013 and has since been a Columbia-favorite.

Located on Shop Road across from the infamous fraternity lots, River Rat is perfect for game days. It’s within walking distance of Williams Brice Stadium for those attending the game. Most importantly, River Rat crafts great beer for all taste buds. The astronaut sauce is a fan favorite that “pairs well with impromptu moon walks,” as the website mentions. It also offers seasonal options including a spiced winter ale, a crisp lemon wheat beer for the summer and more.

Don’t miss out on live music, great beer and good times at Columbia’s long standing favorite brewery.

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Subject to change.
**BEST BREAKFAST / BRUNCH**

**THE GOURMET SHOP**

By Paris Cular

The Gourmet Shop stands out along the streets of Five Points with its vibrant red awnings, and once inside you’re greeted with freshly made pastries, a wide selection of wine and the Best Breakfast/Brunch spot in Columbia!

I have made it a personal tradition to start my first day of classes each semester with a croissant from The Gourmet Shop – the spinach feta croissant is my all-time favorite. Their brunch and lunch menu are also filled with delicious items including waffles, salads, breakfast sandwiches and charcuterie boards. The Gourmet Shop is one of the only places in Columbia where you can customize a charcuterie board with mouthwatering cheeses and a variety of meat.

The Gourmet Shop has an outstanding menu and a beautiful storefront that makes it clear why it was voted the best breakfast and brunch spot in Columbia!

---

**DIPRATO’S DELI**

By Gracie Bryant

My perfect Saturday morning absolutely includes going to get DiPrato’s with my boyfriend. Its brunch menu is extensive with everything from omelets to salmon cakes, but I stay loyal to the chocolate chip pancakes with a side of Applewood smoked bacon.

Also, this may just be me, but brunch and mimosas are like mac and cheese — you can’t have one without the other! I highly recommend the delicious pineapple lime mimosa, but they also serve original and pomegranate mimosas, peach bellinis and much more.

According to its website, the delicatessen now accepts CarolinaCash. Start your Saturday off right with DiPrato’s Delicatessen — maybe I’ll see you there!
JJ Tea House is conveniently located on Main Street across from Honors Dorm and up the road from Strom Thurmond Fitness center. It offers both takeout or dine in either on the patio or inside the restaurant and has an affordable range of dishes.

With its extensive menu of soup, noodles, rice or even shaved ice, even the pickiest eaters can find something to enjoy. The most popular food item is the popcorn chicken. However, the crown jewel of JJ’s is its review raving boba tea, with 20 different offerings in black or green tea.

The next time you’re in the mood for a delicious bite of authentic Asian cuisine,

By Lauren Russo

By Paris Cular

Tired of cheese burgers from Congaree and pizza from Oath? Shalimar Curry House has the perfect dishes to cleanse your palette of dining hall food just steps from campus.

My go-to is a curry roll and chicken biryani that are full of delicious flavors. The daily house special is a way to change up what you order. Vegetarian meals such as Aloo Gobi or Saag are just as tasty! Add the medium or hot homemade chutney sauce to any meal for some extra spice and flavor.

The large menu, pleasant employees and mouth watering food will have you crawling back for more, earning it the spot as Best Indian Food 2022!
BEST MEXICAN FOOD

CANTINA 76

By Lauren Russo

Are you craving Mexican food but can’t decide where to go? Cantina 76 specializes in Mexican cuisine and handcrafted margaritas, and it’s the perfect place for a chill hangout with friends over delicious food.

Its extensive menu includes a wide variety of starters and all your favorite Mexican dishes including, but not limited to, tacos, enchiladas and my personal favorite — the chicken quesadilla. It also has happy hour specials every Monday through Friday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Cantina 76 has two locations — Main Street and Devine Street — and both provide a go-to spot for a quick lunch with friends, unwinding with coworkers or a date night with your significant other.

HOURS:
Sun. - Mon. : 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Tues. - Wed. : 11 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Thurs. - Sat. : 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.

$$

SATELLITE IMAGE CAPTURED BY SIMON TALLURI

BEST JAPANESE FOOD

HIBACHI HOUSE

By Maggie Holman

Don’t feel like cooking but ballin’ on a college budget? No worries, just head over to Hibachi House for a cheap but delicious meal! Their hibachi comes in a large serving including a salad and grilled vegetables. You can choose from chicken, steak, shrimp or a combination of two! But the best part hands down is their signature yum-yum sauce, which I have yet to find a comparable one elsewhere.

Not only is Hibachi House affordable, but it is also within walking distance of campus, located on the corner of Pendleton and Main Street. This place is perfect for a last-minute and quick dinner on nights when you don’t feel like changing out of your sweats.

Although it’s named “Hibachi House,” they serve plenty of other Japanese dishes so there is something for everyone! Their menu includes sushi, rice bowls, noodles and Bento Boxes, along with a wide variety of appetizers such as edamame, spring rolls, calamari, gyoza and more.

HOURS:
Mon. - Thurs. : 11 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Fri. - Sat. : 11 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.
Sun. : 12 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

COURTESY IMAGE
BEEZERS SANDWICH SHOP

By Gracie Bryant

Beezer’s Gourmet Sandwich Shop is a quick and delicious, locally-owned option for a midnight snack. I passed by Beezer’s more times than I can count, but now that I’ve had it, I crave the Double D sandwich and cookie at least once a week.

Beezer’s is located beside Tio’s Mexican Cafe at the end of the Horseshoe and is easy to miss if you’re not paying attention. Its extensive menu includes a variety of sandwiches that’ll be ready in a few minutes, literally, maybe even before you’re done paying. A hidden gem on the menu is the “Beezer Freeze,” an ice cream sandwich using those legendary, homemade chocolate chip cookies. No matter what you end up getting, the food is delicious and the longstanding shop is a staple for UofSC students and Columbia residents.

BEST LATE NIGHT EATS

Kaminsky’s Dessert Cafe

By Emily Neglia

Kaminsky’s is an award-winning dessert café for a reason. Winning best dessert and best place to celebrate a birthday, Kaminsky’s is a local favorite and is hard to beat!

When you first walk in there are so many things that catch your eye, including the chalkboard wall in the back, the artwork on the walls and the fun-filled bar. But – if you’re anything like me – your attention is drawn to the cake case.

The desserts in this case will make your mouth water. There is a wide variety of cakes, pies and cobblers that are prepared fresh daily and rotate throughout the day. As if the choices in the case aren’t enough to choose from, the menu filled with specialty coffees, dessert martinis, milkshakes and sundaes, will make your decision a little bit harder.

Everyone will tell you that you can’t go wrong with whatever you order – and that statement is true, I have never been disappointed trying something new at Kaminsky’s!
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BEST SPORTS VENUE
WILLIAMS BRICE STADIUM

By Emily Neglia

Willy B, thank you for going above and beyond my expectations of an SEC football game. Thank you for showing me my strength of standing in burning hot and freezing cold temperatures. Thank you for giving me some of my greatest memories and laughs as a Gamecock. Thank you for showing me what Gamecock pride is really about.

Nothing can compare to the sight of all 80,000 seats filled with rally towels spinning in the air to Sandstorm. Nothing will beat the chants of “game” “cock” being yelled back and forth between sides of the stadium. Nothing will come close to the excitement of the crowd after fireworks go off for a touchdown. With a colorful sunset above you or at night with your lights shining bright, the sight of you always puts a smile on my face. Win or lose, you continue to serve your purpose of bringing everyone together. From my first-time stepping foot inside, I knew you were special. You’ve attracted some of the best players, coaches and recruits in the game. If it weren’t for you, gamedays would not be the same.

Thank you for making my college game days something I will cherish forever. Thank you for making me proud to be a Gamecock, and thank you for being you. Forever to Thee, A loving senior.

PLAN A DAY

BEST FIVE POINTS BAR
THE COTTON GIN

By Paris Cular

There are a dozen bars in Five Points, but one stands above the rest: Cotton Gin. Cotton Gin includes two floors, three bar tops and a lively dance floor, making it the Best Five Points Bar, according to Best of Carolina 2022 voters.

People gather at Cotton Gin because of the fun and unique environment they create. Both floors cater to each bar goer.

Downstairs you are welcomed with their largest bar top and a mix of music shuffling older pop music and rap, but if you go up a level, you will find a second bar, strobe lights and dancers packed on the dance floor.

Cotton Gin has a welcoming environment that allows for everyone to enjoy themselves and have a good time!
BEST OF

DAWN STALEY
SOUTH CAROLINA WOMEN’S BASKETBALL HEAD COACH

Best Breakfast/Brunch: DiPrato’s Deli
Best Coffee Shop: Piecewise Coffee
Best On-Campus Spot: 650 Lincoln
Best Lunch: Kiki’s Chicken and Waffles
Best Social Outing: The Riverbanks Zoo
Best Place for a Fancy Dinner: Hall’s Chophouse
Best Dessert: Sweet Temptations

COULDN’T GET A TICKET?

Catch up with friends at:
THE FRAT LOTS
By Paris Cular
Saturday in South Carolina brings in fellow Gamecocks from all over, and the students know how to celebrate their team. What may look like a small dirt lot is a tradition for many students, and has been named Best Tailgate Spot 2022!

The Frat Lots are what make game days in South Carolina so amazing to many UofSC students.

From freshman to seniors, we all celebrate gameday in the best way we know how: singing and dancing to Sandstorm. When this song is played in a tent, you can hear students screaming ‘USC’ from miles away. No matter who you are, where you’re from, tailgating at the Frat Lots is a place you’ll never want to leave... until it’s gametime, of course.

Pregame at:
JAKE’S BAR AND GRILL
By Emily Neglia
Wednesday night Jake’s. I’m sure you’ve heard that saying all over UofSC campus and there’s a reason for it. With 30+ options of your favorite craft beer or mixed drink, Jake’s Bar and Grill is the place to be. The live music, sport games on the flat screens and the string lights over the large back patio create the perfect atmosphere to socialize and have fun after a long day of work or classes!

its “Yappy Hour.” During “Yappy Hour,” people can bring their dogs and let them roam free on the back patio while they sit back, enjoy some good food and a cold drink.

Between the happy tail wagging dogs, friendly staff or a game of pool, Jake’s has a way of making people feel at home and always wanting to come back, earning it a spot as Best Sports Bar 2022!
TRIPPING ON BRICKS

By Kaylin Daniels

What started out as friends in a UofSC dorm five years ago has formed into a well-known band across the Columbia area, earning them the title of Best Local Musician 2022 in Best of Carolina! Band members Ridge DeVuno, lead singer and rhythm guitarist; Nick Auch, lead guitarist; Evan Tyler, bass guitarist; and Even Harper, drummer are thrilled to have won and shared with us some of their upcoming plans.

There's no denying that Tripping on Bricks has a unique sound – which they attribute to each band member's variety of musical taste and influence. They have recently been changing up their scenery to keep their creative processes flowing, including working with music producer Wolfgang Zimmerman in Charleston, South Carolina to produce their upcoming album. Zimmerman has helped pull elements out of each band member that they haven't quite been able to capture on record before, and they're excited for everyone to hear their work.

While Tripping on Bricks continues performing some live shows here and there, their current goal is to finish an album that the band can be genuinely proud to share with the world. In the future, the band aims to widely distribute their album which will, ideally, blossom into a successful tour.

“Everyone wants to be a rock star and have the whole world listening to our music,” DeVuno said. “As cliché as that may sound, I think the root want is really to put out music that can make as many people as possible truly feel something special.”

Winning Best Local Musician 2022 is a huge honor for the band, and encouragement to continue pushing toward these goals.

“Considering that we started in a dorm room at Carolina, the university and the city of Columbia mean the world to us,” DeVuno said. “It’s easy to feel stagnant as a musician in the crazy times we are living through right now, but Best of Carolina honoring us with this award is much needed wind in our sails!”

GET OUTSIDE

Shop and take a moon walk at: SODA CITY MARKETS

Then play saucer toss at: THE HORSESHOE
Student HOUSING FOR YOU

SIGN TODAY FOR FALL 2022-2023
YOUNion offers an off-campus student living experience that puts Gamecocks a **STEP AHEAD OF THE REST.** Conveniently located, our apartments near University of South Carolina cater to go-getters, bookworms, and adventurers alike, providing them with lavish amenities and spacious, feature-rich apartments. Discover a college lifestyle **UNLIKE ANY OTHER!**

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- Community Events
- Recreational Clubhouse
- Study Areas
- Computer Lab
- Free Printing
- Recreational Nearby
- Poolside Pavilion
- In-Home Laundry
- High-Speed Internet
- Resort-Style Pool
Soda City Market won “best” in three categories for a reason — if you want something to start your Saturday off right, Soda City is the place to go! Winning the categories of Best Social Outing, Best Festival and Best Instagrammable Spot, the 150 vendors lining Main Street give an endless number of options of things to eat, see, and buy.

If you ask someone their favorite vendor to get food from at Soda city, they will probably mention the Belgian Waffle Truck or Street Thai Food. Whether you want breakfast, lunch, sweet or savory, there is a wide variety of options to choose from! An insider tip: show up hungry so you can try a little bit of everything.

Besides all of the delicious food you can eat, there are so many cool shops to browse through. Everything sold at Soda City is homemade, unique and made here in South Carolina, so it’s a bonus to support our local business! From candles to artwork to clothing, it’s almost impossible to come home empty handed.

If the vendors weren’t enough, the live music and adorable dogs set Soda City above the rest. If you haven’t gone to Soda City yet, I highly recommend you do, because once you go, you’ll be waiting for the next Saturday to roll around!

STUDIO CELLAR

By Gracie Bryant

Paint nights are one of my top-five favorite ways to get out of my apartment and have some fun. Located on Lady Street in The Vista, Studio Cellar is the perfect place to embrace your creativity on a girls’ night out, date, or night to yourself with low stakes and no expectation to be a professional at what you’re doing!

Studio Cellar offers a variety of paint classes where an artist walks you through the steps of creating a beautiful piece. When my roommate’s family came into town we went to take a class and, while not all our paintings turned out that beautiful, we had a blast laughing, drinking and hanging out. The space can also be rented out for private parties. If you’re just looking to relax and let your creativity take you where it wants to, freestyle painting is available for walk-ins at any time when there isn’t a private party (find schedule on the website). Drinks are available for purchase and you can bring your own snacks. Head to Studio Cellar for a fun, relaxing night of creativity!
Best Breakfast/Brunch: Apple and Cinnamon Sweet Roll from Kudzu Bakery

Best Coffee: Starbucks

Best On-Campus Spot: The Horseshoe and Gibbes Greene

Best Lunch: DiPrato’s Deli

Best Social Outing: Taking a walk down the Riverwalk to Boyd Island; or Candy Lane trail by the Riverbanks Zoo

Best Place for a Fancy Dinner: Terra

Best Dessert: Kudzu Bakery

Other: Love taking the grandchildren to Riverbanks Zoo, visiting Congaree National Park in the winter; ideal day would end in Williams Brice Stadium with a Gamecock’s win
FURNITURE UPGRADES

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NEW LIVING ROOM FURNITURE
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*The actual colors, styles, sizes, shapes, design, materials, manufacturers, and upholstery in the apartment unit to be leased to Resident(s) may vary.

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BEST OF SHOPPING
When COVID-19 hit and classes shifted online, senior advertising student Gray Thomas took a leap of faith and created Soda City Thrifts.

Soda City Thrifts exists to provide second-hand inventory from across South Carolina to customers as an outlet for people to express themselves in a creative, unique and affordable way. Inventory is constantly rotating based on the best thrifting finds. Customers can purchase items via Instagram direct messages or in person at pop-up events.

Through hard work, consistent effort and a great support system, the business has continued to grow over the past year. “I did take the risk of starting the business, but SodaCity Thrifts would not be able to be where it is today without the help from one of my good friends Lillian Barnes,” Thomas said. “Also, in the beginning stages of the business, my group of friends were incredibly supportive and helped spread the word. But most importantly, having faith in God and trusting his patience allowed for everything that came to fall into place.”

While Thomas wants to continue growing the business and reach goals such as passing 50,000 followers on Instagram or opening a store, it’s about more than the numbers. “My main goal for SodaCity Thrifts comes from the passion of handpicking a piece of clothing that someone else can express themselves with,” Thomas said. “To me, it’s not about the brand names or how much you can sell an item for, but instead, seeing customers around Columbia wearing that T-shirt or sweatshirt they bought from SodaCity Thrifts.”

Winning Best Student-Run Business is a great honor to Thomas, who thanked all that have supported him along the way. “It really means a lot to see something that you build from the ground up and take a risk on receiving notice for being the best student-run business at a university that means so much to me,” Thomas said. Scan the QR code to follow (and shop) Soda City Thrifts!

Lila Cromer began Shop Lila B a few years ago selling to supporters back home, but when she moved into her freshman dorm here at UofSC, the business came into its own.

“Shop Lila B has become the platform for me to really express my personality through art. Having even the smallest part in my customers’ day-to-day life has been so fun and I am just so grateful for each and every one of them that has made my dreams become a reality,” Cromer said.

Scan the QR code to view and shop Shop Lila B’s pieces!

Student-Made was created in 2017 to combat the common story of student-artists struggling to sell beyond a few close friends on campus, or a small customer base in their hometown. The University of South Carolina Student-Made branch launched in September 2021 as an outlet for creative UofSC student-entrepreneurs to connect with the support of their campus community as they grow their business and share their message, while gaining the experience to turn their art into a viable business.

Scan the QR code to meet all the artists and shop Student-Made UofSC.
Carter’s Candles created by University of South Carolina fourth-year Zekilah Carter has won the first-ever Best Black Owned Business in Best of Carolina. Her business — Carter’s Candles — offers candles, soaps and candle wicks for your relaxation.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit — many, including Carter, had been fired or laid off. Carter turned this time of discouragement into a hobby of candle making. After purchasing a kit and making candles for those around her, she was not planning on making this into a business, but with the encouragement of her friends, family and boyfriend — Carter’s Candles was created.

Winning Best of Carolina is an exciting time for Carter. A friend nominated her and informed her she moved on to the voting round, and she was thrilled to encourage her family, friends, apartment and GroupMe’s to vote for her. She is touched that the community takes the time out to support her, honored to have won and has found the Best of Carolina process to be a rewarding experience.

Scan the QR code to shop beautiful candles from the Best Black-Owned Business 2022 — Carter’s Candles!

What started as a hobby in high school has become a passion and job for UofSC student Grace Sorrells. Within the past five years Sorrells has accomplished far beyond what she would’ve expected — including filming and directing a commercial for NBA Rookie of the Year and All-Star Lamelo Ball. Sorrells hopes to continue paving a way for women in the sports industry, and dreams of one day traveling the world photographing different companies, organizations and players.

Scan the QR code to view Sorrell’s work and support her business!

Summer Rogers created Summer Doodles as a way to raise funds for her mission work in Haiti. Five years later, Rogers is hosting events across Columbia and paving her way as a full-time artist. After graduating from UofSC in May 2021 Rogers has been able to expand Summer Doodles as she always hoped.

From Soda City on Saturday mornings, pop-up events like Puppy Love Painting Classes and custom pieces, Summer Doodles has quickly become a Columbia favorite!

Scan the QR code to shop Summer Doodles!
BEST BOOKSTORE

UofSC BARNES & NOBLE

By Lauren Russo

Located in the heart of campus, the UofSC Barnes and Noble in Russell House has won Best Bookstore 2022!

Don’t be fooled by the category name, the store has more than just books — it’s a one-stop-shop for all students’ needs. It carries everything from school supplies and textbooks to snacks and UofSC apparel. Whether you’re looking for a t-shirt, a Carolina Grandpa hat or a Gamecock car magnet, the bookstore has it all from high end apparel including Vineyard Vines, Adidas, Nike and more.

Perhaps the most convenient past of the store is the convenient course materials locator. Students can type their classes into the UofSC Barnes and Noble website and all required course and professor-specific textbooks are listed and ready to order to be picked up in store on campus.

With such variety and convenience, the UofSC Barnes and Noble bookstore is hard to beat... which may be why its won Best Bookstore for the last seven years!

By Lauren Russo

BEST PLACE TO BUY GAMECOCK GEAR

BAREFOOT CAMPUS OUTFITTERS

By Gracie Bryant

Garnet and black — UofSC’s iconic colors, seen all over campus from students’ clothing to the giant Gamecock painted on Greene Street. There is no denying that UofSC students have plenty of school pride, and part of that is looking the part. For the last two years, voters have named Barefoot Campus Outfitter as the Best Place to Get Gamecock Gear — and this year is no different!

Located at 650 Lincoln near Colonial Life Arena, Barefoot has a wide selection of everything from sweatshirts, crop tops and parents’ clothing to mugs, stickers and jewelry. Your entire life can be decked out in garnet and black with all of the possible options! Nothing beats a gameday in Willy-B, but you can’t have the perfect gameday without the perfect outfit. Barefoot offers a wide selection of T-shirts and cropped shirts for those first, unbearably hot game days and long sleeves and sweatshirts for the cooler months. One of its most iconic pieces is the “No one looks good in orange” T-shirt, which I love for the most important game of the year — South Carolina vs. Clemson!

BEST GROCERY STORE

TRADER JOE’S

BEST PLACE TO BUY PRODUCE

TRADER JOE’S
If you’re preparing for a job interview or need to revamp your closet for your summer internship, check out the UofSC Carolina Closet! Carolina Closet was created in September 2020 by Student Government as a resource for all students to have access to business professional clothing. With a valid CarolinaCard, students can take five clothing items per semester for free. Items rotate based on donations from local organizations, residents and students, but the selection can include everything from dresses, blouses, pants, collared shirts and more.

The Carolina Closet is currently located in the Career Center, with the occasional on-campus pop-up shop or donation call. The best way to stay up-to-date on hours and location is by following their Instagram, @uofsc_closet. You can also sign up to volunteer at the closet by visiting the link in their bio. Save money, level-up your attire, and support a UofSC initiative by visiting the Carolina Closet today!

By Gracie Bryant
Those warm Soda City Market-Saturdays are never complete without a stop at Sonnie’s Refreshments for a delicious original lemonade to sip on while I walk. I love either the original or strawberry flavor, but you can also choose from pineapple, raspberry, mixed berry, mango, peach, Sonrise Orangeade, Peach Palmers or a strawberry/mango mix.

While its lemonade is the hook, it also puts a unique spin on pork skins with flavors like maple sugar cinnamon and ranch. No matter how long the line is, I love stopping at Sonnie’s for a refreshing drink to accompany me on my walk down Main Street!

By Gracie Bryant

Serving Columbia since 2014, The Belgian Waffle Truck has been a staple of the Soda City Market and has now been voted Best Soda City Vendor in Best of Carolina for the past 5 years.

Owned by trained chef Jean-Louis Ledent and his wife Yvette Ledent, both born in Belgium, the truck has become known for its thick, decadent waffles made with special dough consisting of sugar pearls straight from Belgium. Served sweet or savory these waffles are sure to put a smile on your face and the equivalent on your taste buds, especially their famous “Strawbwaffle” which is layered with fresh strawberries and whipped cream.

“This is our passion. I am ‘back of the house’ and Yvette is an awesome ‘front of the house’ person. We are a great team, and we love working together. This is probably the best job we ever had! Sharing part of our culture with our food truck is what inspired us to pursue [this business],” Jean-Louis said.

By Tyler Sprague

By Gracie Bryant

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By Tyler Sprague

Best Breakfast/Brunch: DiPrato’s Deli
Best Coffee Shop: Blum
Best On-Campus Spot: Horsehoe
Best Student Organization: Student Government
Best Lunch: Twisted Taco/ Gourmet Shop
Best Social Outing: Riverwalk
Best Place for a Fancy Dinner: Halls Chop House

Best of
ALEX HARRELL

2021 STUDENT GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT

Best Breakfast/Brunch: DiPrato’s Deli
Best Coffee Shop: Blum
Best On-Campus Spot: Horsehoe
Best Student Organization: Student Government
Best Lunch: Twisted Taco/ Gourmet Shop
Best Social Outing: Riverwalk
Best Place for a Fancy Dinner: Halls Chop House

Best of
ALEX HARRELL

2021 STUDENT GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT

Best Breakfast/Brunch: DiPrato’s Deli
Best Coffee Shop: Blum
Best On-Campus Spot: Horsehoe
Best Student Organization: Student Government
Best Lunch: Twisted Taco/ Gourmet Shop
Best Social Outing: Riverwalk
Best Place for a Fancy Dinner: Halls Chop House
EMILY DENGLER
2021 STUDENT GOVERNMENT VICE PRESIDENT

Best Breakfast/Brunch: Carolina Cafe - I love it there! Everyone is so kind!
Best Coffee Shop: Cool Beans
Best On-Campus Spot: Colloquium Cafe
Best Lunch: The Gourmet Shop
Best Social Outing: Riverwalk - a great place to relax!
Best Place for a Fancy Dinner: Al’s Upstairs - my favorite restaurant in Columbia!
Best Dessert: Kaminskys

SODA CITY MARKET

COLA MURALS
By Gracie Bryant
Mural 1:
Lady Vista Mural
916 Gervais St.
By Cait Maloney

Mural 2:
Five Points Mural
532 Congaree Ave.
By Chad Brady

Mural 3:
Riverwalk Mural
122 State St. (Alley beside New Brookland Tavern)
By Christine Crawford

THE EDITOR’S PICK

Tag us and share!
@garnetmediagroup
Try a double helix or orbital piercing at:
**BEST PIERCING SHOP**
**IMMACULATE PIERCING**
By Tyler Sprague

Start your day of self-care off right by finally getting that piercing you have been wanting for years. Immaculate Piercing goes above and beyond to make each customer feel safe, welcome and comfortable. These efforts are reflected in its 4.8 star rating on Google, the overwhelmingly positive reviews and being named Best Piercing Shop in Best of Carolina for the third year in a row. Safety is the top priority at Immaculate Piercing, the studio is licensed by SCDHEC and goes to great lengths to make sure all equipment is properly sterilized and disposed of. Although it might be tempting to rush there right now, appointments are required and the lobby is closed to the public due to COVID-19 precautions.

Avoid a piercing horror story and make an appointment at Immaculate Piercing! Next it’s off to your next appointment at Jolie’s Nail Spa to get a fresh set to go with your new piercing!

Get solar, dipped, or gel nails at:
**BEST NAIL SALON**
**JOLIE NAILS & SPA**
By Kaylin Daniels

Jolie Nails and Spa, SC on Whaley Street is the place to go for a self-care day or a quick nail touch-up! Since its opening in October 2020, students have made this a popular spot with 85% of its clientele being students, according to the owners. The staff is professional and friendly, offering a drink when you come in and also many pampering options.

UofSC students receive a 5% discount by showing their CarolinaCard. If you want a much-needed break without hurting your wallet, head to Jolie Nails for a relaxing and luxurious experience.

Space buns or a blow out at:
**BEST HAIR SALON**
**STUDIO O2**
By Maggie Holman

I don’t know about you, but my hair is a sacred thing to me and I won’t entrust the task of cutting and dying it to just anyone so if you are like me, end your day of self care at Studio O2. Studio O2 specializes in modern and classic cutting techniques and handles everything from professional hair coloring and color correction to keratin smoothing, Brazilian blowouts and extension services. Hair isn’t all they specialize in, they also offer lash enhancements, waxing, makeovers and skin care. And don’t worry boys – they offer men’s grooming too!

The SO2 team is composed of 17 employees who all have their own areas of expertise and creative vision that when brought together create a well-rounded and innovative experience. According to the website, SO2 believes in a team-based culture full of “vision, artistry, and five-star customer service.” But don’t just take their word for it, the “Accolades” tab on the website includes raving reviews from real customers, and this is their second year in a row winning Best of Carolina!

Here’s your sign: put down the scissors and the box-dye and invest in your hair by booking an appointment at Studio O2! After visiting all three BOC nominated self-care spots- Immaculate Piercing, Jolie’s and Studio O2- I guarantee you will leave feeling like a brand new person.
THANK YOU, STUDENTS!

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TRIPPING ON BRICKS
FOUNDED AT CAROLINA

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BEST TAILGATING SPOT
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BEST OFF-CAMPUS LIVING
the ROW
at the stadium

BEST PIERCING SHOP
immaculate
professional piercing + jewelry
2009 Greene St - Columbia
The Row at the Stadium was built in 2020 and the volleyball court, grills and lazy river immediately became a hotspot to hang out. Whether it is a game day or a warm and sunny Sunday afternoon, music is playing, people are laughing and memories are being made.

The Row at the Stadium offers three different townhouse layouts: 3 bedrooms, 4 bedrooms and 6 bedrooms. Each townhouse comes fully furnished, includes a guest bathroom and the 6 bedrooms have a large upstairs porch. If you’re not sold by the modern layout of each townhouse, the lazy river, volleyball court and grills may win you over.

The amenities offered are a big attraction, but the location is even better. The glorious Willy B is only steps away, making The Row the center of the action on game days. Some townhouses even face the stadium and what better view is there to look out on then Willy B? Only being two years old, The Row sells out extremely fast, so start searching for a lease early to secure your spot!

By Emily Neglia

Strom Thurmond Wellness and Fitness Center, better known as Strom, is an athletic fantasy of a gym. Strom has three floors filled to the brim with exercise equipment, courts and athletic services. All amenities are free to students and can be accessed by faculty, staff, retirees and UofSC affiliates with a purchase of a membership.

Not only is Strom a great place to work out, but it was also voted as the Best Place for Students to Work! Strom provides many different work opportunities for students such as Adventure Trip leaders, Group X instructors, personal trainers, maintenance technicians, lifeguards and program assistants. Check out the Strom Thurmond Wellness and Fitness Center on Handshake to see all of the currently available positions!

By Tyler Sprague

HOURS: Mon. - Thurs. : 6 a.m. - 11 p.m.  
Fri. : 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Sat. : 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Sun. : 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
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Townhomes, Houses, and Apartments
TOM REICHERT
DEAN OF COLLEGE OF INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS

Best Breakfast/Brunch: Eggs Up on Devine

Best Coffee Shop: Cool Beans – seriously, any other competition??

Best On-Campus Spot: Horseshoe is the greatest! Always gets you in a good mood. Love to do laps while making calls

Best Lunch: DiPrato’s – Panzanella Salad with sweet tea on a Friday afternoon

Best Social Outing: Soda City for sure

Best Place for a Fancy Dinner: Hall’s definitely but lots of other great options. If local, Motor Supply.

Best Dessert: Kaminsky’s Dessert Café
Forgot your mom’s Prime password? Time for your Prime Student account.

Fast delivery, entertainment, exclusive deals for students, and more. Start your 6-month trial.

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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