

THE BUZZ NOVEMBER 7, 2015

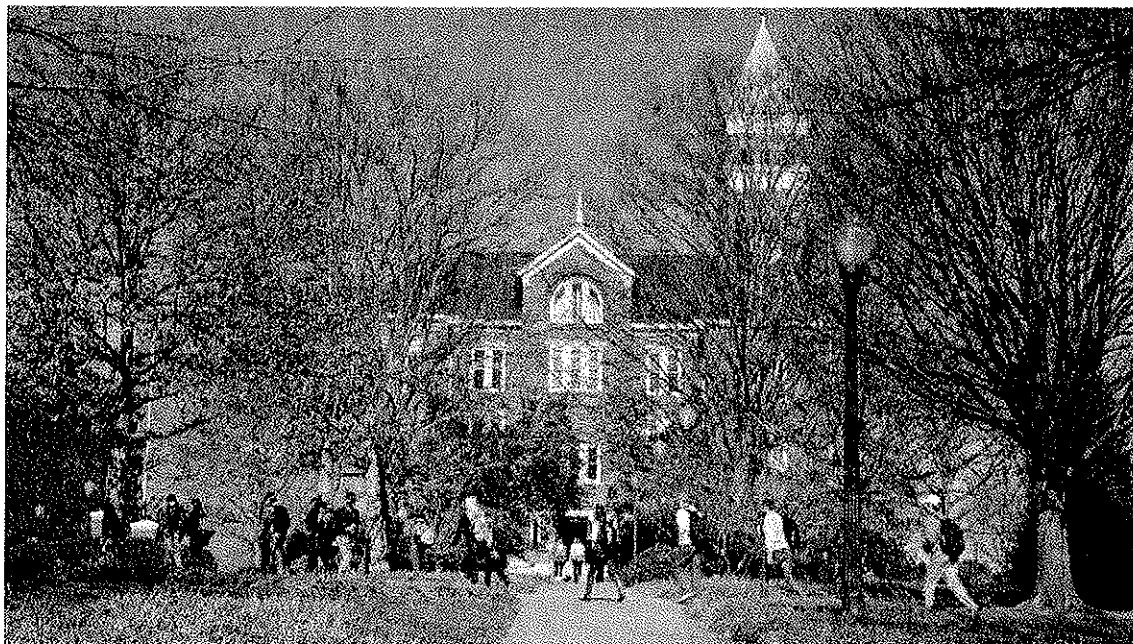
THE BUZZ: Colleges' road trips among most costly in SC

HIGHLIGHTS

Seven universities ranked among the Top 10 state agencies in travel spending

Overall state-paid travel rose by \$6.2 million in 2014-15

Biden returning to S.C., while Rice joins House tax-writing committee



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Universities continued to dominate the annual list of top spenders on travel among S.C. agencies during a year when state-funded travel costs rose overall by \$6.2 million.

Clemson University and the University of South Carolina ranked first and second for the 11th straight year in travel costs, according to data compiled by the S.C. Comptroller General's office.

The state's two biggest colleges accounted for a third of overall travel costs, which totaled \$75.5 million in the 2014-15 fiscal year, which ended June 30. Travel spending rose by 9 percent over the previous year – the biggest bump in the past six years.

Other universities among the Top 10 travel spenders were the Medical University of South Carolina, College of Charleston, Coastal Carolina University, S.C. State University and Winthrop University.

The Department of Health and Environmental Control was the top non-university spender on travel, finishing fifth. The Judicial Department – the state's courts system – and Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation also ranked in the Top 10.

Among the Top 30 travel spenders, the biggest spikes over the previous year came from the: Department of Commerce, up 60 percent; Department of Social Services, up 44 percent; Department of Education, up 32 percent; Department of Motor Vehicles, up 30 percent; and State Law Enforcement Division, up 29 percent.

The biggest drops in travel spending among the Top 30 were at S.C. State and Winthrop, which each spent roughly 20 percent less than a year ago.

The General Assembly didn't hold back on travel spending. The Senate's travel costs rose by 20 percent over the previous year, while the House's travel expenses increased by 61 percent.

Among state employees, only Clemson president **Jim Clements** and Clemson football coach **Dabo Swinney** spent more than \$100,000 on travel. Clemson defensive coordinator **Brent Venables** spent nearly \$95,000.

The highest non-Clemson travel spender was **Kenley Jones**, senior associate director of admissions at Coastal Carolina University, who had \$66,095 in expenses.

USC's top travel spender was biology professor **Timothy Mousseau** at \$52,432, just ahead of assistant basketball coach **Perry Clark**, who spent \$52,130.

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Travel spenders

The 10 state agencies that spent the most on travel in 2014-15, according to data compiled by the S.C. Comptroller General's office. Included is the amount spent on travel; change in spending from the previous year; and agency employee who spent the most on travel last year:

- 1. Clemson** — \$13.5 million, up 4%; Jim Clements, president, \$114,010
- 2. University of South Carolina** — \$12.7 million, up 0.7%; Timothy Mousseau, biology professor, \$52,432
- 3. Medical University of South Carolina** — \$6.4 million, down 0.1%; Yuko Palesch, public health professor, \$32,857
- 4. College of Charleston** — \$5.7 million, change N/A; Antonio Tillis, dean of languages, cultures and world affairs, \$30,784
- 5. Department of Health and Environmental Control** — \$3.5 million, up 11.5%; Theresa Clamp, nurse administrator, \$22,861
- 6. Coastal Carolina University** — \$1.8 million, up 14.2%; Kenley Jones, senior associate director of admissions, \$66,095
- 7. Judicial Department** — \$1.7 million, down 4.9%; Thomas Russon, judge, \$28,560
- 8. S.C. State University** — \$1.6 million, down 19.6%; Delbert Foster, 1890 Extension program director, \$20,236
- 9. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation** — \$1.25 million, up 8.3%; Marty Reynolds, fire safety officer, \$19,252
- 9. Winthrop** — \$1.25 million, down 19.7%; Brittany Pearce, admissions counselor, \$25,184



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