

University of South Carolina Palmetto College

CONNECTIONS

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Summer 2023



USC Union opens new Laurens County location at historic Clinton school



Please submit all items for the Fall/Winter 2023 edition no later than Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023.

USC Palmetto College Connections is published biannually, at the conclusion of the spring and fall semesters.

If you have an interesting story to share with the Palmetto College community, please share the news with the following contact for your respective campus/ location:

USC Lancaster
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Archived editions of **USC Palmetto College Connections** from the Fall 2015 semester edition onward may be found [online](#) on the Palmetto College website.

About the Cover:

This issue's cover highlights the [official launch of USC Union's new Laurens County location](#) at the campus of the historic Bell Street School in Clinton, S.C. The new USC Union Laurens Location features traditional classrooms, video conferencing classrooms, science labs, a computer lab and other spaces to accommodate faculty, staff and students. A greenhouse on the property has also been renovated.

The Bell Street School location also serves as a headquarters for a few of the Bantam Athletics programs, including a new golf team and the USC Union Anglers bass fishing team. The golf team is set to compete at the club level for a year before making the transition to NJCAA competition. The team will be housed in the school's old band room and practice facilities will include a golf simulator inside and a Par 3 practice course that will be constructed behind the school. The school gymnasium will serve as the dry dock for the USC Union Anglers bass fishing team.

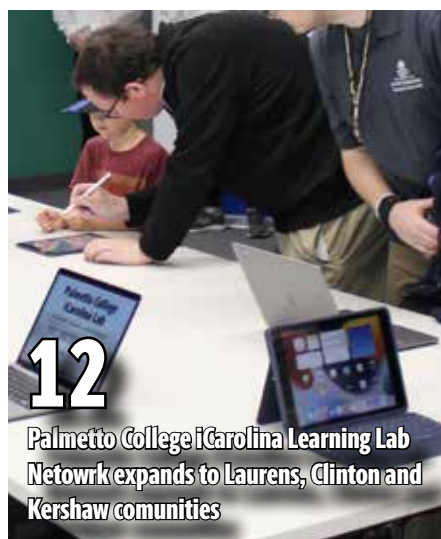
USC Union's new Laurens County home is located at 600 Peachtree Street, Clinton, S.C. The previous Laurens County location opened in January 2014 at the Oaks Shopping Center in Laurens, S.C., and served many students in the area.

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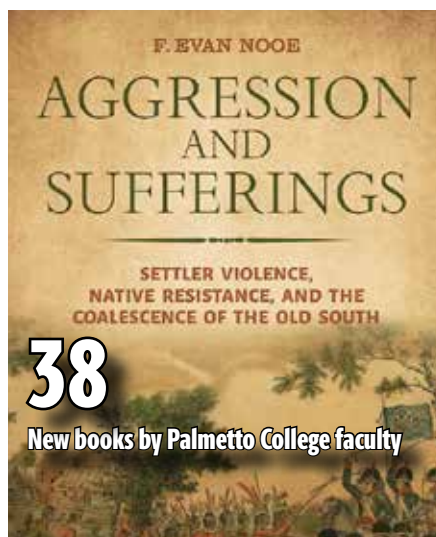
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Traditionally, in nature, the spring and summer months represent growth and new beginnings. This can also hold true within higher education, particularly within the University of South Carolina Palmetto College.

Thanks to dedicated faculty and staff across our regional Palmetto College campuses – USC Lancaster, USC Salkehatchie, USC Sumter and USC Union – Palmetto College Columbia and Palmetto College Online partners at USC Aiken, USC Beaufort, USC Columbia and USC Upstate, we continue to be able to fulfill a mission to provide an accessible, flexible and affordable higher education to students across South Carolina.

During the past several months, we have welcomed much growth to our Palmetto College Campuses, Palmetto College Online and service to our communities.

As you will note from the cover of this publication, [USC Union has expanded its footprint within Laurens County](#), relocating the USC Union Laurens Location from the corner of a shopping plaza in Laurens to an entire school campus in Clinton, in partnership with the local school district.

The Palmetto College iCarolina Learning Lab Network has grown as well, with [the addition of three new locations serving the communities of Clinton, Laurens and Kershaw during the spring months](#). The eight total labs, located in and near broadband deserts across South Carolina, [recently surpassed the 10,000-visitor milestone](#).

This summer, the [first BSN nursing cohorts at USC Sumter and USC](#)

[Union \(both in partnership with the USC Aiken School of Nursing\) graduated ten new nurses](#) to serve in communities facing healthcare disparities. And May 2023 BSN graduates of the existing nursing programs at USC Lancaster (a partnership with USC Columbia's College of Nursing) and USC Salkehatchie (a partnership with the USC Beaufort Nursing Program) both [achieved a 100% pass rate for the NCLEX licensure exam for new nurses](#).



Dr. Susan A. Elkins, Chancellor
University of South Carolina
Palmetto College

Palmetto Pathway, the bridge transfer program based out of Palmetto College Columbia, will have its largest cohort of students to date.

Palmetto College Online continues to grow as well. We launched Palmetto College Online a decade ago with

seven online bachelor's degree completion programs spanning the USC System institutions at Aiken, Beaufort, Columbia and Upstate. [This Fall 2023 semester, we welcome the four newest Palmetto College Online bachelor's degree completion programs:](#) the BS in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance (USC Aiken), the BS in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing (USC Aiken), the BA in Political Science (USC Upstate) and the BA in Political Science with a concentration in Law and Justice Studies. Including the two fully online associate degree programs offered through our regional Palmetto College campuses, we have more than quadrupled our initial online offerings to 29.

This spring and summer, we were

able to celebrate many "Points of Pride" as well within Palmetto College. Our faculty are achieving broad acclaim for their research, scholarship and teaching. Among our honored faculty, [Dr. Ray McManus, Professor of English at USC Sumter, is the recipient of the 2023 South Carolina Governor's Award for the Arts](#), and [Dr. Dan Kiernan, Instructor of Biology at USC Sumter, received the South Carolina Academy of Science Two-Year Institution Faculty of the Year Award](#).

Internally, [we celebrated the accomplishments of outstanding faculty as recipients of the Palmetto College Faculty Excellence Awards](#), including Dr. Fernanda Burke, Associate Professor of Biology at USC Lancaster, with the Duffy Excellence in Teaching Award; Dr. Steve Lownes, Associate Professor of World Languages at USC Union, with the Plyler Excellence in Service Award; and Dr. Patrick Lawrence, Associate Professor of English at USC Lancaster, with the Shaw Excellence in Scholarship Award.

Moreover, [this May presented an opportunity for our Palmetto College "family" to gather for fellowship and barbecue to celebrate the culmination of our first ten-year journey](#).

Though the autumnal season brings falling leaves, we have much more growth to which we can look forward as we complete our tenth year of service as Palmetto College. Not only are we prepared to enter the Fall 2023 semester, we enter our second decade of service... building on ten years of success!

FOREVER TO THEE!

USC Union opens new Laurens County location at historic Clinton school





USC Union is expanding its footprint in Larens County for the upcoming Fall 2023 academic semester.

In order to strengthen its ability to fully serve Larens County, including through opportunities for lab classes and new Bantams sports teams, USC Union will grow its Larens County operations to include a new home in the historic Bell Street School (600 Peachtree St.) in Clinton, S.C., beginning in the fall. The current Larens County location opened in January 2014 at 507 N. Harper Street, Larens, S.C., and has served many students in the area. The current facility at the Oaks Shopping Center in Larens will continue to serve the community during the move through the summer semester.

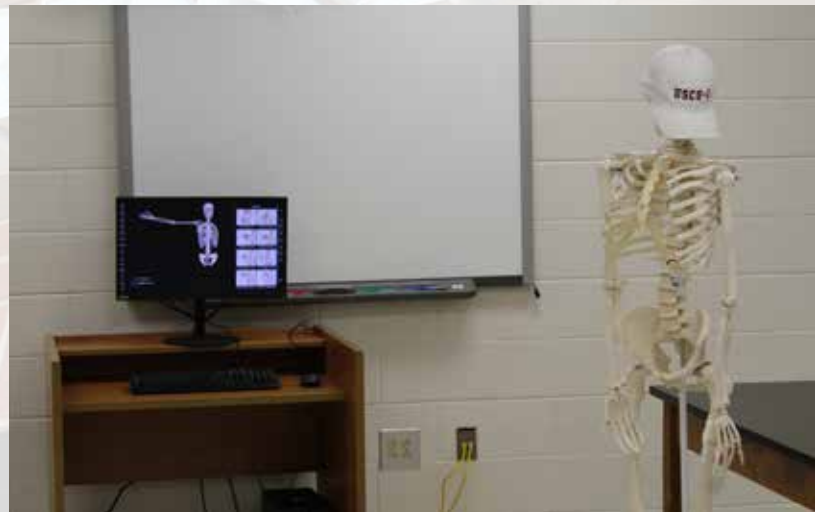
“We are grateful for the strong decade-long partnership between USC Union and Agnew Development as we expanded our on-campus service

to Larens County students in Larens,” said USC Union Campus Dean Randy Lowell. “This new chapter, and partnership with Larens County School District 56, at the former Bell Street School in Clinton, S.C., solidifies our commitment to the students, families and citizens of the entire Larens County community.”

USC Union is one of four institutions within the University of South Carolina System designated as regional Palmetto College campuses. USC Union serves students at locations in both Larens and Union counties, and across a broader service area. Within Larens County communities, students have an opportunity to apply for the Larens County Future Scholarship (www.futurescholarship.org) along with other scholarships available to view on the USC Union website at uscunion.sc.edu.

[New USC Union Larens Location, continued page 9](#)

In preparation of opening USC Union's newest Laurens County location, the historic Bell Street School received a facelift earlier this spring as crews prepared traditional classrooms, video conferencing classrooms, science labs, a computer lab and other spaces to accommodate faculty, staff and students.



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“From the new Bell Street School location, we are excited to be able to continue to offer associate degree-level course work, upper-level courses towards bachelor’s degrees in liberal studies and organizational leadership, as well as dual-credit course work for area high school student in Laurens County,” said Dean Lowell. “Students can also complete 26 additional bachelor’s degree programs through Palmetto College Online from our computer labs or from any location.”

In addition to academic offerings, USC Union expanded its offerings and services to the Laurens County community in January 2023 with the launch of two new Palmetto College iCarolina Labs that provide free broadband access and free software and workforce development training at the Laurens and Clinton libraries. The Laurens County Public Library (1017 W. Main St. Laurens, S.C.) has a dedicated room for the computer lab that features ten iMac stations, as well as ten MacBooks and ten iPads for use in and around the library. The current Clinton Public Library (107 Jacob Highway., Suite A, Clinton, S.C.) houses a kiosk that holds MacBooks and iPads for people to use in and around the library – serving as a mobile Palmetto College iCarolina Learning Lab. Once the Clinton branch moves into its new space, a dedicated lab will house ten iMac stations in addition to the ten MacBooks and ten iPads.

In preparation of opening USC Union’s newest Laurens County location, the former Bell Street School received a facelift earlier this spring as crews prepared traditional classrooms, video conferencing classrooms,



The USC Union Anglers Bass Fishing Team (above with USC Union Dean Randy Lowell) will be housed at the Bell Street campus. The school gymnasium will serve as the dry dock for boats and other equipment.



The USC Union golf team is set to compete at the club level for a year before making the transition to NJCAA competition. The team will be housed in the school's old band room.



Golf team practice facilities will include a golf simulator located inside the old band room and a Par 3 practice course behind the school.

[New USC Union Laurens Location, continued page 10](#)



An existing greenhouse on the Bell Street campus has also been renovated, and a partnership has been formed with United Way of Laurens County and the Laurens County Master Gardener Association for future projects.



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science labs, a computer lab and other spaces to accommodate faculty, staff and students. A greenhouse on the property was also renovated, and a partnership has been formed with United Way of Laurens County and the Laurens County Master Gardener Association for future projects.

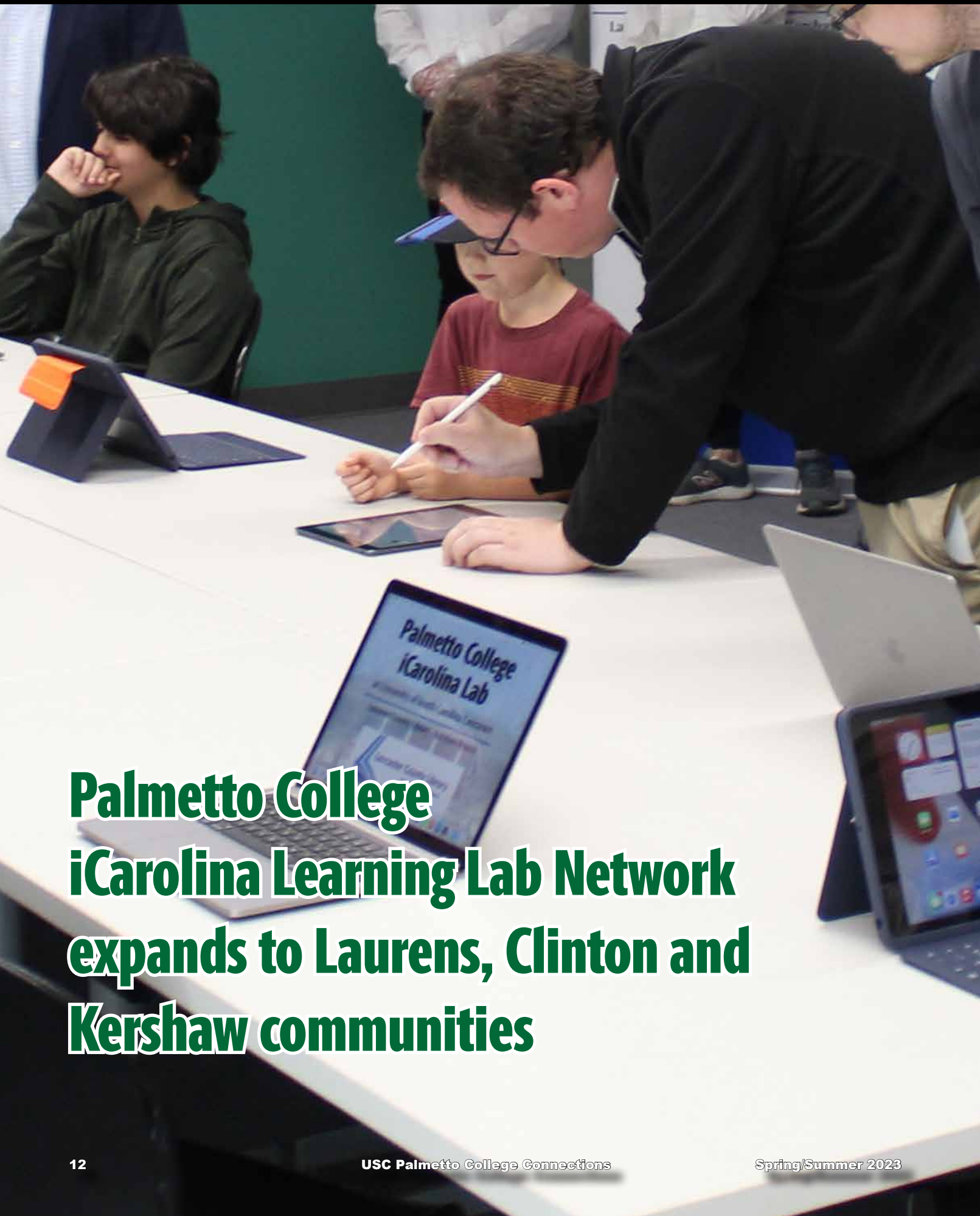
The Bell Street School location will also serve as home base for a few of the Bantam Athletics programs. Laurens resident Gil Moss has been hired to build and coach a new golf team. The golf team is set to compete at the club level for a year before making the transition to National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) competition. The team will be housed in the school's old band room and practice facilities will include a golf simulator inside the band room and a Par 3 practice course that has been constructed behind the school. The school gymnasium will serve as the dry dock for the USC Union Anglers bass fishing team.

"We are excited to continue serving students within the City of Clinton and the greater Laurens County community as the historic Bell Street School becomes a new USC Union-Laurens County Location," said Lowell. "Reaching this milestone is important, and we are grateful for the support and assistance of city and county leaders, the Laurens County School District 56, the Union/Laurens Commission for Higher Education, State Representative Doug Gilliam (SC-42), Trustee Brian Harlan and other members of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees."



In order to strengthen its ability to fully serve Laurens County, including through opportunities for lab classes and new Bantams sports teams, USC Union is growing its Laurens County operations at a new home in the historic Bell Street School (600 Peachtree St.) in Clinton, S.C. The previous Laurens County location opened in January 2014 at the Oaks Shopping Center, 507 N. Harper Street, Laurens, S.C., and has served many students in the area.





**Palmetto College
iCarolina Learning Lab Network
expands to Laurens, Clinton and
Kershaw communities**

Three new Palmetto College iCarolina Learning Labs opened to serve residents in the Laurens, Clinton and Kershaw communities during the Spring 2023 semester. The Clinton and Laurens labs, which are located within Laurens County, are operated by USC Union. The Kershaw lab, located in Lancaster County, is operated by USC Lancaster.

These three new labs join five other labs that opened in Allendale, Lancaster, Sumter, Union and Walterboro in 2022 to provide underserved communities in South Carolina with access to high-speed broadband internet.

The existing Palmetto College iCarolina Learning Lab at USC Union, housed in the Union County Carnegie Library in Union, S.C., serve as a hub for the two new Laurens County locations. Two new locations of the Palmetto College iCarolina Learning Labs at USC Union are being finalized at the branches of the Laurens County Public Library System – similar to the existing lab at the Union County Carnegie Library. The Laurens County Public Library branch has a dedicated room for this space that will feature ten iMac stations, as well as MacBooks and iPads for use in and around the library. The current Clinton Public Library branch will house a kiosk that will hold MacBooks and iPads for people to use in and around the library – serving as a mobile Palmetto College iCarolina Learning Lab. Once the branch moves into its new space, a dedicated lab will house ten iMac stations in addition to the MacBooks and iPads.

The new Kershaw lab is located inside the Kershaw Branch of the Lancaster County Library System. The existing Palmetto College iCarolina Learning Lab at USC Lancaster, housed on the USCL campus, serves as a hub for the new location within the Lancaster



The Palmetto College iCarolina Lab at USC Union opened a second location in the Clinton Branch of the Laurens County Public Library on Jan. 25, 2023.



The Palmetto College iCarolina Lab at USC Union opened a third location in the Laurens Branch of the Laurens County Public Library on Jan. 25, 2023.



The Palmetto College iCarolina Lab at USC Lancaster officially opened a second location in the Kershaw Branch of the Lancaster County Public Library on March 9, 2023.

[New iCarolina Labs, continued page 14](#)

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County Library-Kershaw Branch. The Kershaw Branch has a dedicated space that features four iMac stations, four MacBooks, four iPads and four Apple TVs on a video wall for greater collaboration.

In March 2021, South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster awarded \$6 Million of the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funds to the University of South Carolina, who in partnership with Benedict College, have been establishing Apple computer labs to serve communities statewide. The existing labs, located at regional USC Palmetto College campuses, are all situated within 15 miles or less of a broadband desert, according to the [South Carolina Broadband Map](#), providing reliable technology and internet access to these communities.

"We are pleased to expand the Palmetto College Learning Lab Network to serve the Clinton, Kershaw and Laurens communities," said USC Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins. "This technological investment in our campuses and communities opens the door for so many South Carolinians to gain skills and certifications that will enable them to grow both academically and professionally, including the [Swift programming language](#). Continued thanks to Governor McMaster for the leadership and vision that has created such a tremendous opportunity for these communities. Also, thanks to USC Lancaster Campus Dean Walter Collins, USC Union Campus Dean Randy Lowell and their respective teams for their work in executing this vision for the communities in which they serve."

[The Palmetto College iCarolina Lab Network](#), a partnership with Apple Inc., offers free Swift coding certification courses (which began in the Spring 2023 semester) to teach Apple's iOS language to students in the USC System and to community members across South Carolina. Those enrolled in the courses learn the

skills needed to develop apps for iOS, MacOS, Apple TV and Apple Watch.

This summer, several of the iCarolina Labs are offering STEM-related summer camps for area youth. In this year's programs, students in Allendale are learning to code using JavaScript to create apps, students in Sumter are learning the fundamentals of digital design and students in Walterboro are learning the art of creating movies, including the creation of studio quality music scores, using Apple innovative technology.

The iCarolina Learning Labs across South Carolina have been strategically located for use by the regional USC Palmetto College campuses, local school districts, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), the South Carolina Technical College System and citizens in the community. Each site provides Apple products and educational programming to faculty, staff, students and the community at no cost to the user.

"As the state's flagship institution, the University of South Carolina is at the forefront of efforts to educate and train the workforce of the future," said Bill Kirkland, executive director of the USC Office of Economic Engagement. "In this modern economy, we understand that our state continues to need more highly skilled workers in specialized fields than ever before. Initiatives like the iCarolina network help fill the gap between K-12, two-year colleges and higher education for the advancement of our entire statewide community."

To date, eight Palmetto College iCarolina Learning Labs have opened to serve the surrounding communities of USC Union (Union, Laurens and Clinton), USC Lancaster (Lancaster and Kershaw), USC Salkehatchie (Allendale and Walterboro) and USC Sumter (Sumter).



The Palmetto College iCarolina Lab at USC Union opened a second location in the Clinton Branch of the Laurens County Public Library on Jan. 25, 2023. Devices will be available from a kiosk until the new library branch location opens and accommodates a full size lab.



The Palmetto College iCarolina Lab at USC Union opened a third location in the Laurens Branch of the Laurens County Public Library on Jan. 25, 2023.



The Palmetto College iCarolina Lab at USC Lancaster officially opened a second location in the Kershaw Branch of the Lancaster County Public Library on March 9, 2023.

Palmetto College iCarolina Learning Labs surpass 10,000-visitor milestone

The USC Palmetto College iCarolina Learning Lab Network has reached a significant milestone. To date (June 30, 2023), the eight established iCarolina Learning Labs have served over 10,000 visitors across South Carolina.

The first of the eight iCarolina Labs opened at the Union County Carnegie Library in Union, S.C., in February 2022, and the most recent lab opened in the Kershaw Branch of the Lancaster County Public Library in Kershaw, S.C., in March 2023. The other six labs are located on USC Palmetto College campuses or within nearby public libraries in Allendale, Clinton, Lancaster, Laurens, Sumter, Union and Walterboro. An additional lab will be located in Columbia and is slated to open in the near future.

“We are pleased to be able to reach this milestone in offering Palmetto College iCarolina Learning Labs to South Carolinians and communities that can benefit from accessing the internet to enhance skills, certifications, workforce training, youth enrichment and other technological needs,” said USC Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins. “One of the hallmarks of Palmetto College is accessibility. Whether on our regional Palmetto College campuses, Palmetto College Online or through our various community

initiatives like the Palmetto College iCarolina Learning Lab Network, we aspire to meet the needs of South Carolina communities across the state.”

According to 2019 data from the United States Census, more than 22 percent of South Carolina households do not have access to broadband internet service. Many other households do not have access to reliable service. Residents living within these “broadband deserts” often find themselves at a technological disadvantage. Freely accessible community computer facilities planted by USC Palmetto College across South Carolina are meeting the need to close the digital divide.

The USC Palmetto College iCarolina Learning Lab Network has been strategically located for use by citizens in communities across South Carolina, the regional Palmetto College campuses, local school districts, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and the South Carolina Technical College System. Each site provides Apple products, educational programming and workforce development training to community members, faculty, staff and students at no cost to the user.

“The achievement of having over 10,000 visitors in the short time the network has been fully



established, is a testament to the job the University of South Carolina is doing in helping provide underserved areas with the resources needed to increase workforce readiness throughout the Palmetto State,” said Bill Kirkland, executive director of the USC Office of Economic Engagement. “Thank you to Governor McMaster, our partners at Apple and Palmetto College, for investing in South Carolina’s workforce of the future.”

The iCarolina Learning Labs, in partnership with Apple Inc., launched free Swift coding certification courses in January 2023 to teach Apple’s iOS language to community members across South Carolina, as well as to students in the USC System. Those enrolled in the free courses learn the skills needed to develop apps for iOS (iPad and iPhone), MacOS (iMac and MacBook), Apple TV and Apple Watch. In addition, courses are also being taught to provide community members with skills-based training to familiarize themselves with the various features and software associated with their own Apple devices.

This summer, several of the iCarolina Labs



are offering STEM-related summer camps for area youth. In this year’s programs, students in Allendale are learning to code using JavaScript to create apps, students in Sumter are learning the fundamentals of digital design and students in Walterboro are learning the art of creating movies, including the creation of studio quality music scores, using Apple innovative technology.

In March 2021, South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster awarded \$6 Million of the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funds to the University of South Carolina, which has established the USC Palmetto College iCarolina Lab Network to serve communities statewide. The eight Apple computer labs, located at or near regional USC Palmetto College campuses, are all situated within 15 miles or less of a broadband desert, according to the South Carolina Broadband Map, providing reliable technology, internet access, new skills and workforce development training to these communities. Additional information is available online at <https://go.sc.edu/iCarolinaLabs>.



People's Poet:

**USC Sumter English Professor Ray McManus
wins S.C. Governor's Award for the Arts**

by Craig Brandhorst

When Ray McManus learned he was one of five winners of the 2023 Governor's Award for the Arts, the poet and USC Sumter English professor was surprised. "In my own mind, I don't think I deserve this award," he says. "I don't think I do anything any more special or spectacular than anybody else that I know."

McManus isn't just being humble, though, and he's not discounting the honor. "It feels pretty good," he says with a laugh. But his biggest satisfaction as a writer comes from the work itself, which is how he connects and responds to the world he inhabits.

"There's an unfortunate stereotype that the poets of the world are elusive and introverted, and, yes, you will find poets like that," he says. "But that's not what I'm interested in. I want to connect. I want to be with people. I want to write about things people think about but are unable to articulate."

And that's what the Lexington, S.C., native has done. McManus now has published three books with another on the way — *Driving through the country before you are born* (2007), *Red Dirt Jesus* (2011), *Punch* (2014) and *The Last Saturday in America* (2024) — and the Governor's Award is a welcome acknowledgment of the work he has published over the past 20 years.

But for McManus, being a poet also extends beyond the words on the page. A first-generation college student with a less-than-stellar high school record, he entered USC as an undergrad with only the vaguest notion of what he wanted to do for a career, then emerged three degrees later as a poet and an educator.

Now an English professor and administrator at USC Sumter, in addition to an award-winning poet, he credits mentors like English professor Ed Madden with encouraging him to develop his talents through USC's MFA program and to continue on for his Ph.D.

"Heading to the university, I was really lucky," he says. "To this day, I don't know why they accepted me, but the professors I worked with put me on a path that I could have never imagined."

McManus wants to provide that same sort of guidance and inspiration for USC Sumter students. Many will never take another poetry class again, he says, but they can still benefit from exposure to the form.

"There are a lot of students at USC Sumter that are like me, that were first generation," he says. "And it's so fun turning them on to literature, turning them on to poetry, getting them to write."



Sometimes, he even gets to do what Madden and other professors along the way did for him, back when he was first discovering his knack for the written word.

"At least once or twice a semester someone writes something that amazes me, and it's the first time they've ever heard that what they wrote is good," he says. "They'll say, 'Nobody's ever told me that before.' There's this moment of disbelief, but I'm like, 'No, I'm dead serious. This is good!'"

And whether or not he thinks he deserves the Governor's Award, McManus welcomes the platform it gives him to advocate for something important: the appointment of a new South Carolina Poet Laureate.

The post has been vacant since 2020, when Charleston poet Marjory Wentworth stepped down after 17 years. According to McManus, that's a missed opportunity to promote the writing, reading and appreciation of poetry across the state.

"It's a little disheartening to not have a poet laureate in this state, especially when you know the transformative power that poetry can have," he says. "I know personally what it has done for me. I know personally what it has done for other people, including students."

Reprinted from University of South Carolina website



Fernanda Burke, USC Lancaster
John J. Duffy Excellence in Teaching Award



Steve Lownes, USC Union
Chris P. Plyler Excellence in Service Award



Patrick Lawrence, USC Lancaster
Denise R. Shaw Excellence in Scholarship Award

2022-23 Palmetto College Excellence Awards honor individual faculty teaching, service and scholarship

Each spring, the Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Excellence Awards for teaching, scholarship and service are announced.

The **John J. Duffy Excellence in Teaching Award for Palmetto College Campuses** has been presented annually since 2009 to a faculty member who exemplifies excellence in dedication and commitment to students and their academic success inside and outside of the classroom.

The 2022-23 Duffy Teaching Award was presented to **Fernanda Burke**, associate professor of biology and chemistry at USC Lancaster. Burke holds a Ph.D. in medicinal chemistry from the University of Michigan.

Burke successfully instructs students in a variety of challenging science courses, including chemistry, biology and microbiology. She has received stellar course evaluation responses from students across 34 science sections. Burke is a student-focused teacher who designs each course to promote engagement and



to emphasize the retention and application of material, not just memorization.

Burke is dedicated to creating a comfortable learning environment for students to ask questions, discuss topics and thrive. She develops lecture materials that teach basic topics followed by problem-solving assignments to reinforce learning and encourage application of course material.

During the global pandemic, Burke redesigned her courses, incorporating weekly quizzes to keep students accountable. Finding it so successful in improving test scores, she continues to use these quizzes in her face-to-face instruction.

She has developed a laboratory experiment that allows students to explore the correlation between fatty acid structures and the properties of the soap produced by these acids. This experiment was introduced to USC Lancaster chemistry labs, and the preliminary results were presented at the Southeastern Regional Meeting American Chemical Society ([SERMACS](#)) in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in October 2022.

Burke, along with Bettie Obi Johnson, is developing a program that attracts and assists incoming students majoring in STEM-related fields at USCL over the summer semesters. This program, which includes a scholarship to cover the cost of summer classes, aims at preparing students for their freshman year.

Burke assesses student learning through a variety of methods designed to meet student needs, as well as to challenge them.

As one student wrote about her, “Dr. Burke, I feel, is one of the best instructors that I have had the pleasure of teaching me... I love that she gets excited about reactions, and that kind of energy is contagious. Dr. Burke lets her students know that she understands that this subject is challenging, and you can see that she is sympathetic to that fact and is very patient with us. I can’t wait to start Organic Chemistry II knowing that she will be teaching that course just as well as she led this one.”



The **Chris P. Plyler Excellence in Service Award for Palmetto College Campuses** is presented to a faculty member who personifies excellence in extraordinary service to the campus, university, community and profession. The award was first given in 2015.

The 2022-23 Plyler Service Award was presented to **Steve Lownes**, associate professor of world languages at USC Union. He earned a Ph.D. in Spanish and Portuguese from The Ohio State University.

Lownes’ service work spans all four areas, including the USC Union campus, USC System, community and profession.

His contributions to his campus include working with the Student Academic Success Center to lead workshops on resume writing, LinkedIn and options after graduation. He also serves on the planning committee for Fresh Check Day at USC Union, a day to discuss mental health and suicide prevention for university students.

[Palmetto College Faculty Excellence Awards, continued page 22](#)

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Lownes has raised over \$140,000 in grants supporting student programming and curriculum, which went toward presenting the annual Latin American Film Festival, the purchase of microscopes and toward piloting the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Performance Descriptors for Language Learners (AAPPL) test in the world language classes for Palmetto College.

At the USC System level, Lownes serves as coordinator for the Graduation with Leadership Distinction (GLD) program where he markets, recruits and works with students to pursue and receive their GLD credential at commencement.

He has recently proposed the PALM 294: Internship course which will allow students at the associate degree level to complete an internship and have it reflected on their transcripts. As part of the proposal, he has recommended that PALM 294 be an alternate prerequisite for PALM 494 to encourage students to continue their work experience by completing both courses and to enroll in the Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership and Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies degree programs.

In his community, Lownes has worked with members of staff to identify local businesses and nonprofit organizations for potential internships and service-learning placements, which has already successfully placed several students. In addition, he is a member of the Spartanburg Public Health Needs Assessment Committee.

He not only serves as a member of Live Healthy Union, but also as secretary of the organization's executive committee where he has written by-laws and has helped create their Community Health Improvement Plan.

Lownes is also active in professional service, offering cultural programming at the Union County Carnegie Library by creating a bilingual reading of *Guess How Much I Love You* in Portuguese.

He has worked with other translators and interpreters

around the nation in the educational arena to advocate for better standards and training for educational interpreters.

"I believe that service is essential for the successful operation of a university, but it can be especially rewarding when we incorporate it into our scholarship and teaching," said Lownes.

"I embed service into all aspects of my career because it gives meaning to my work, and I hope to serve as an example to my students to better our academic and local communities."



The **Denise R. Shaw Excellence in Scholarship Award for Palmetto College Campuses**, first given in 2017, is presented annually to a faculty member who exhibits outstanding scholarly research or creative achievement.

The 2022-23 Shaw Scholarship Award was presented to **Patrick Lawrence**, associate professor of English at USC Lancaster. He earned a Ph.D. in English from the University of Connecticut.

Lawrence has demonstrated a record of outstanding scholarship.

USC Regional Palmetto College Campuses announce Distinguished Teachers of the Year



**USC Lancaster
Distinguished Teacher of the Year
Award**

Suzette Taylor
Nursing Instructor



**USC Sumter
Student Government Association
Teacher of the Year Award**

David Decker
Associate Professor of History



**USC Salkenhatchie
Distinguished Teacher of the
Year Award**

David Dangerfield
Associate Professor of History



**USC Union
Distinguished Teacher of the
Year Award**

Emily Schafer
Associate Professor of
Psychology

He has authored a lengthy, scholarly monograph exploring literary obscenity controversies from the 1930s through the 1990s in which analysis revealed that writers of color, as well as LGBTQ+ writers, were subjected to much more damaging repercussions.

Lawrence has secured interest from three publishers and ultimately signed a publication contract with Fordham University Press, which has been listed in the category of “excellent national publishers.”

Lawrence has also received research grants totaling over \$22,000

He has written an essay, titled “The Erotic Fictions of Rapacious Capitalism in Excessive Novels of the 1980s,” which has received a Revise and Resubmit by *American Literature*—a top journal in the field.

Lawrence has submitted an article titled “Manipulations of the Edible That Show Who We Are: Culinary Self-Pleasure in Viet Nguyen’s *The Sympathizer* and Philip Roth’s *Portnoy’s Complaint*” to the Publications of the Modern Language Association, receiving an R&R and subsequently positive feedback from readers, including the following remark... “a pleasantly readable, smart, illuminating, sometimes

funny account of an unlikely and deliberate convergence between the work of two ethnic American writers.”

He has co-edited a collection of essays called *Out of the Gutters* with Jorge Santos, which explores the intersection of obscenity and comics, and has signed an advance publication contract with University of Texas Press.

Additionally, Lawrence has a recurring role as a keynote speaker for Medford Library’s Banned Books Week where he gives talks about how and why books get banned and what this tells us about history, politics, and art.

He gave eight invited lectures and scholarly talks in 2022 alone, including an event with regional impact hosted by Winthrop University called “Roots and Ramifications of 21st Century Challenges to the Freedom to Read.”

Lawrence’s work has been described by reviewers as “potentially groundbreaking” and “cutting-edge and innovative.”



Cruz honored as 2023 College Level Educator of the Year at Sumter Chamber of Commerce Gala

Carolina Cruz, a senior instructor of Spanish and a dedicated educator at USC Sumter, was honored at the prestigious Sumter Chamber of Commerce Gala as the recipient of the 2023 College Level Educator of the Year award.



Presented by the Chamber and The Bank of Clarendon, this esteemed accolade recognizes Cruz's exceptional contributions to education and marks the first year that University-level educators were considered for the award.

"This recognition is a testament to Ms. Cruz's commitment to excellence in teaching, and reflects the high-quality education provided to students at USC Sumter," said USC Sumter Campus Dean Michael Sonntag.

The Sumter Chamber of Commerce Gala serves as a platform to celebrate outstanding individuals who make a positive impact in the local community. By including University-level educators in the award considerations for the first time, the Chamber and The Bank of Clarendon have recognized the crucial role that these educators play in shaping the minds and futures of students.



Kiernan earns South Carolina Academy of Science Two-Year Institution Faculty of the Year Award

The South Carolina Academy of Science has bestowed the prestigious Two-Year Institution Faculty of the Year Award upon Dan Kiernan, senior instructor of biology and an esteemed faculty member at USC Sumter.

The award recognizes the exceptional contributions made by faculty members in two-year institutions across the state. This accolade serves as a testament to Kiernan's exceptional contributions to academia and his commitment to excellence in education, fostering a vibrant learning environment that inspires and engages students.

Kiernan's selection for this award is a well-deserved recognition of his remarkable achievements in



the field of education. His unwavering dedication to teaching and mentoring students has undoubtedly left a lasting impact on the academic community.

"We are delighted to celebrate Dr. Kiernan's achievement as the winner of the South Carolina Academy of Science Two-Year Institution Faculty of the Year Award," said USC Sumter Campus Dean Michael Sonntag. "This well-deserved honor not only showcases their remarkable dedication to teaching and research but also reflects the excellence that USC Sumter and Palmetto College strive to uphold. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Kiernan on this outstanding accomplishment."

Faculty and Staff Notes



Sahar Aghasafari, assistant professor of art and graphic design at USC Lancaster, had a solo exhibition

in fabric design and print held in USCL's Bradley Gallery from Jan. 19 to May 30, 2023.

Aghasafari's graphic design students were showcased in an exhibit, entitled "Concept, Design & Creativity," at the USC Lancaster Art Gallery in Founders Hall from March 2-16, 2023.

She also presented "Presenting Best Practices in incorporating STEAM Learning" at the National Art Education Association (NAEA) National Convention Higher Education Division in San Antonio, Texas, in April 2023.

Aghasafari presented "Creative Visual Arts and Biology Processes: Examining Emergent Bi/Multilingual High Schoolers Meanings" online to district administrators, teachers, staff and the general community of the Clarke County School District, Athens, Ga., in April 2023.

She was an invited guest speaker for two events, including: (1) "Incorporating STEAM Learning" to the USC Lancaster Research Club, in April 2023, and (2) "Graphic Design for Non-Designers" for Administrative Professionals Day, through University of Georgia Continuing Education in March 2023.

Aghasafari was given an honorary position as artist-in-residence and director of digital production for STAR Scholars Network, an international forum of scholars that advances global social mobility using research and advocacy.



Ashleigh Anderson has been hired as head softball coach for USC Salkehatchie. The Barnwell, S.C., native

served as the softball and volleyball coach for Barnwell High School for the last five years. In 2021, she was selected to coach in the North/South All-Star Softball game held at USC Aiken. Additionally, Anderson has coaching experience at Blackville-Hilda and Greer high schools.

She attended Newberry College on a softball scholarship where she earned dual bachelor's degrees in physical education and coaching. Anderson later earned her master's degree in kinesiology from Georgia Southern University in 2012.



Mary Ellen Bellanca, professor of English at USC Sumter, was named a recipient of the 2023 USC

Distinguished Research Service Award. According to a USC Office of Research webpage, "Distinguished Research Service Award recipients have demonstrated exceptional commitment to USC's research community through consistent service as reviewers and committee members for our internal funding and awards programs." The internal funding programs include the RISE grants for Palmetto College faculty and the new "Excel" funding program established by the Office of Research with the offices of the President and the Provost.



Danielle Aquino has been hired as head volleyball coach and assistant athletics director at USC Salkehatchie.



Shannon Belangia, instructor of English at USC Salkehatchie, was selected by students to be recognized by

the "Thank-A-Teacher" Program sponsored by the USC Center for Teaching Excellence.



Connor Austell has joined USC Lancaster as an assistant professor of music. He earned a Ph.D. in Musical Arts

from the University of Georgia.



Marybeth Lee Berry, associate professor of theatre speech at USC Lancaster, and the Lancaster Players'

production of "The Blurr" was accepted at the juried Asheville Fringe Festival; the play was previously performed at USCL in February 2023. A new musical, "The Puzzle," with book by Berry and music and lyrics by Alex LeFevre premiered in May 2023 at USCL.

Tracy Beach has been hired as STEM program manager at USC Salkehatchie.



Berry and **Tyrie K. Rowell**, financial aid counselor and loan coordinator, adjunct instructor of

technical theatre and technical director at USC Lancaster, took students and alumni to perform in their original devised work, "The Blur," on racial injustice and discrimination to Asheville Fringe Festival in North Carolina where they had been selected as a juried entry in March 23-27.



Michael Brown, adjunct music faculty at USC Sumter, was the stage director for Opera Carolina's Opera Xpress production of

"The Tortoise and The Hare." "This children's opera was performed over 70 times for elementary schools and family audiences in the greater Charlotte area and beyond during the 2022-23 season.



Fernanda Burke, associate professor of biology and chemistry at USC Lancaster, is the 2022-23 recipient of the

John J. Duffy Excellence in Teaching Award for Palmetto College Campuses.

She was also selected by students to be recognized by the "Thank-A-Teacher" Program sponsored by the USC Center for Teaching Excellence.



Francis Burns, assistant professor of chemistry at USC Salkehatchie, was among three

Salkehatchie faculty named to the list of the "People's Choice Best of the Best: College Professor" presented by *The Press and Standard* (Walterboro) in the March 25 edition.



Allan Charles, professor emeritus of history at USC Union, published a series of six articles in the

Union County News and in the historical newsletter of the Union County Historical Society on the topics of Black history, women's history and general local history.



Sher Chhetri, assistant professor of mathematics at USC Sumter, led a group project titled "The Marascuilo

Method Holds Promise for Improved Medical Management During a Pandemic," presented at the Society for the Advancement of Management (SAM) International Business Conference in March 2023. This is ongoing work in collaboration with Hennie Van Bulck, Luisa Melo and USC Sumter students Antonio Turner, Christian Sterner and Kaitlin Kiser.

He also volunteered to judge students' posters at the 67th USC Science and Engineering Fair at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C., March 2023.

Chhetri presented a paper titled "A Comparison of Three Instructional Methods for Teaching an Introductory Statistics Course" at South Carolina Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (SOCAMATYC) at Greenville Technical College, Greenville, S.C., February 2023.

He also served as a member of the organizing committee and volunteered to judge students' posters at the "19th Annual SC Upstate Research Symposium" at USC Upstate on March 31, 2023.

In addition, he was selected by students to be recognized by the "Thank-A-Teacher" Program sponsored by the USC Center for Teaching Excellence.



Walter Collins, USC Lancaster campus dean and professor of French and English, was one of 40 participants in

and has completed the Executive Education Program entitled "Crisis Leadership in Higher Education" sponsored by faculty at the Harvard Kennedy School and the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Feb. 23 to March 3, 2023.



April Cone, USC Salkehatchie campus dean, was among three Salkehatchie faculty named

to the list of the "People's Choice Best of the Best: College Professor" presented by *The Press and Standard* (Walterboro) in the March 25 edition.

Kimberly Covington, instructor of English at USC Lancaster, was selected by students to be recognized by the “Thank-A-Teacher” Program sponsored by the USC Center for Teaching Excellence.



Stephen Criswell, professor of English and director of Native American Studies at USC Lancaster, was

featured on the March episode of PBS affiliate WTVI’s *Trail of History*. In the episode, titled “[Historic Infrastructure](#),” he was interviewed about Nations Ford Road in the Charlotte, N.C., area.

Criswell and Chris Judge, assistant director of Native American Studies at USC Lancaster, hosted both the Director of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Director of the South Carolina Humanities Council at the Native American Studies Center in March 2023.



Carolina Cruz, senior instructor of Spanish at USC Sumter, was awarded the “2023 College School Level Educator of

the Year” on behalf of The Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce and The Bank of Clarendon.



David Dangerfield, associate professor of history at USC Salkehatchie, has been voted the 2022-2023

Professor of the Year by the USC Salkehatchie students.

He also served as a consultant for PBS series *Finding Your Roots*, for an episode entitled “[Rising From the Ashes](#)” traces the roots of actors Brian Cox and Viola Davis, uncovering records from workhouses in Scotland and slave plantations in South Carolina that reveal individuals who battled to build a better life for their families.

Dangerfield was also awarded a 2023 RISE grant to support summer research titled “Strangers in the Land: Mixed-Race and Indigenous Communities in the South Carolina Lowcountry, 1860-1960.”

He was also selected by students to be recognized by the “Thank-A-Teacher” Program sponsored by the USC Center for Teaching Excellence.



David Decker, associate professor of history at USC Sumter, is the recipient of the USC Sumter Student

Government Association Teacher of the Year Award.

Chris Defossez, has joined USC Sumter as an assistant professor of psychology. He earned a Ph.D. in Psychology from Antioch University.

Sunshine Dempsey, English instructor for dual enrollment at USC Sumter, was selected by students to be recognized by the “Thank-A-Teacher” Program sponsored by the USC Center for Teaching Excellence.



George Dukes has been named head women’s basketball coach at USC Salkehatchie.

[He comes to Salkehatchie](#)

[from Grovetown High School near Augusta, Ga.](#), where he coached the Lady Warriors for three years. He led Grovetown to Region 3-AAAAAA championships in 2020 and 2022. Under his leadership, the Warriors had a 53-22 record, qualifying for the state playoffs each year he coached, including an Elite Eight appearance in 2021. Dukes was recognized as Coach of the Year by the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association in 2022 and 2020. Dukes also coached with the Georgia Sting Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) basketball organization for 10 years, during which he and his staff earned over 300 wins.

The Augusta native received an associate degree from Georgia Military College and then attended Troy University, where he received a B.S. in Computer Science and an MBA in Business Administration and Information Systems. Dukes is currently pursuing a Doctor of Business Administration in Information Systems from Walden University.



Elizabeth Easley, associate professor of exercise science at USC Lancaster, presented her research titled, “[Time spent in](#)

[Sedentary and Physical Activity in College-aged Women based on Body Composition](#)” at the annual Southeast American College of Sports Medicine meeting on Feb. 25.



Sarah Sellhorst, professor of exercise science at USC Lancaster, and Bill Riner, professor emeritus of exercise science

at USC Lancaster, were co-authors on this presentation.

Easley was a co-author on a paper accepted and recently published in *Frontiers in Pediatrics* titled, “Body mass index percentiles versus body composition assessments: Challenges for disease risk classifications in children.”

Easley and Sellhorst had their abstract, “Navigating Virtual Promotion and Engagement in Undergraduate Research” accepted for presentation at the ConnectUR 2023 Annual Conference.



Julia E. Elliott, professor of English and women and gender studies in Palmetto College Columbia, was awarded a 2023

RISE grant to support summer research titled “The Colony.”



Michael Evans, adjunct instructor of criminal justice at USC Sumter, successfully defended his dissertation to

earn his Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from Liberty University on March 28.

The title of his dissertation is “[Impact of the Completed South Carolina Post Critical Incident Seminar on the Well-Being of the Law Enforcement Participants.](#)”

Matilda Ferguson, enrollment support specialist in Palmetto College, was selected for induction as an honorary member of the University of South Carolina Chapter, the Upsilon Zeta, of Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society for her support of nontraditional students in the Liberal Studies, Organizational Leadership and online Elementary Education programs.



Rebecca Freeman, director of Medford Library at USC Lancaster, and **McKenzie Lemhouse**, assistant

librarian at Medford Library at USC Lancaster, had a presentation proposal accepted to talk about Period



Supplies in the library. Their video presentation, [Battling Period Poverty](#), was streamed at the Southeast Collaborative Conference in March 2023.



Jessie Freyermuth, who previously served as a full-time instructor at USC Sumter, has been named an assistant

professor of music. Freyermuth earned a Ph.D. in Musicology from the University of Kansas.



Vincent Frontero, instructor of English at USC Sumter, had a poem, “[Winter Break](#),” accepted for publication

in *The Shore*. In addition, “Realism from a Different Era,” has been accepted for publication in *Pembroke Magazine*.



Tania Hazra has joined USC Sumter as an assistant professor of mathematics. She earned a Ph.D. in

Mathematics from the University of Alabama.



David Hunter, senior fellow and instructor of management in Palmetto College Columbia, was selected by students to

be recognized by the “Thank-A-Teacher” Program sponsored by the USC Center for Teaching Excellence.

Deborah Hudson, adjunct instructor at USC Union, was selected by students to be recognized by the “Thank-A-Teacher” Program sponsored by the USC Center for Teaching Excellence.



Amy Gerald, assistant professor of English at USC Lancaster, presented her research “[Finding the](#)

[Grimkés in Charleston: Using Feminist Historiographic and Archival Research Methods to Build Public Memory](#)” at the W. Brent Burgin Lunch and Learn Series on March 24 at the Native American Studies Center. Gerald was awarded a RISE grant for a project on the Grimkés related to this talk.

She was also awarded a 2023 RISE grant to support summer research titled “The Black Grimkes in Charleston: Building Public Memory of Black Descendants of White Planters.”



Terrence Gilmore, director of recruitment for Palmetto College, was elected to represent

Palmetto College Columbia and Palmetto College Central Administration in the [USC Columbia Staff Senate](#) for the 2023-25 senate term.



Brett Gould, [men’s soccer head coach](#) at USC Sumter, was voted the NJCAA Region 10 “Men’s Soccer Coach of the Year.”



Kristina Grob, associate professor of philosophy at USC Sumter, co-authored a book, [Thinking Critically About](#)

[Abortion](#), which was recently made available in a French translation as [Pense l’avortement](#) (Eliott Editions) in April 2023.

She also presented her paper “Tensions in Feminist Pedagogy” at the 2023 meeting of Women’s and Gender Studies South: A SEWSA Legacy (WGS South) in March 2023.

Grob was also selected by students to be recognized by the “Thank-A-Teacher” Program sponsored by the USC Center for Teaching Excellence.



Lisa Hammond, professor of English at USC Lancaster and director of faculty affairs at USC Columbia, had poetry

featured in a new virtual exhibit by the South Carolina Chapter of the National Association of Women Artists, “[We See: Creating from Verse](#).” The show, juried by artist Mary Edna Fraser, features 33 pieces of art by 21 South Carolina artists responding to Lisa Hammond’s poems, published from 1997 to 2021. The exhibit was on display through early May 2023, in addition to being exhibited at Brookgreen Gardens during the awards ceremony and poetry reading in April 2023.

Brenda Hightower retired as director of health and safety at USC Salkehatchie in March 2023.

Jennifer Houston has joined USC Sumter as an administrative assistant.

Deborah Hudson, adjunct instructor at USC Union, was selected by students to be recognized by the “Thank-A-Teacher” Program sponsored by the USC Center for Teaching Excellence.



Kirsten Iden, assistant professor of English at USC Salkehatchie, has been awarded the 2023 Dr. Ann C. Carmichael

Faculty and Staff Excellence Award.

She also presented “Fashioning Eliza Lucas Pinkney’s Textile Archive,” to the [Colleton County Historical and Preservation Society](#) in March 2023.

Iden was awarded a 2023 RISE grant to support summer research titled “Gendered Power and Colonial Literacy in the Letters of Eliza Lucas Pinckney.”

Jeffrey Irwin, instructor of accounting in Palmetto College Columbia, was selected by students to be recognized by the “Thank-A-Teacher” Program sponsored by the USC Center for Teaching Excellence.



Randall Ivey, senior instructor of English at USC Union, was selected by students to be recognized by the “Thank-A-Teacher” Program sponsored by the USC Center for Teaching Excellence.

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Randall Ivey, senior instructor of English at USC Union, was selected by students to be recognized by the “Thank-A-Teacher” Program sponsored by the USC Center for Teaching Excellence.



Austin Jenkins, senior instructor of biology at USC Sumter, was selected by students to be recognized by the “Thank-A-Teacher” Program sponsored by the USC Center for Teaching Excellence.



Ernest Jenkins, associate professor of history at USC Lancaster, Robert Folks, and Gavin Witherspoon

Jr. spoke at Lancaster’s Cultural Arts Center (CAC) on “[Gone But Not Forgotten: Who’s Who in the Historic Old Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Lancaster, SC](#)” as part of the CAC Conversations Series, sponsored by the Lancaster County Society for Historical Preservation. They delivered this presentation on March 1.



Bettie Obi Johnson, professor of chemistry at USC Lancaster, and **Annette Golonka**,



professor of biology at USC Lancaster, mentored several students’ Magellan Scholar projects: Lauren Kirby for a project

titled “Microorganisms of *Gelsemium sempervirens* and the Environmental Factors Affecting Them” and Charis Grabbe for a project titled “Impact of Environmental Factors on Floral Scent Emission of *Gelsemium sempervirens*.”

Johnson taught a special new independent study course at USCL this semester: PCAM 299 – South Carolina Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities. USCL is the second undergraduate university and the first two-year college in South Carolina to participate in this program along with Furman University, the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) and the University of South Carolina. Four USCL students participated this semester. The course included a series of online modules through MUSC, four clinical (virtual and in-person) experiences, and a day-long “Nurturing Developing Minds Conference” in Greenville, S.C.

She was also selected by students to be recognized by the “Thank-A-Teacher” Program sponsored by the USC Center for Teaching Excellence.



Tekla Ali Johnson, assistant professor of African American studies at USC Union, chaired

several conference paper sessions at the 47th annual conference of the National Council of Black Studies held at the University of Florida in March 2023, including “Police Violence: Abolition and Black Resistance,” and “African Studies as a Necessary Pedagogical Practice.” She also presented a paper, “Un-Random Acts: A Theory of State Violence,” at the conference.

She has also been featured in an episode of PBS affiliate WTVI’s *Trail of History*. In the episode, titled “[Urban Renewal](#),” in which she was interviewed about her work cataloguing and digitizing the history of Black communities displaced by urban renewal in the South Charlotte, N.C., area.



Shelley Jones, associate professor of English in Palmetto College Columbia, was selected by students to

be recognized by the “Thank-A-Teacher” Program sponsored by the USC Center for Teaching Excellence.



Chris Judge, assistant director of Native American Studies at USC Lancaster, mentored student Cynthia

Curtis, whose proposal, titled “The Sleeping Woman Speaks: Memory and Voice of the Women of the Guazapa Volcano, El Salvador,” was awarded funding through the Magellan Scholars Program.



Andrew Kettler, assistant professor of history at USC Union, had a paperback edition of his recent book, [The](#)

[Smell of Slavery: Olfactory Racism and the Atlantic World](#) (Cambridge, 2022 [2020]) released in December 2022. Earlier this year, he presented at the Smell Studies Working Group, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.

In addition, he has been named a [2023-24 Fellow of the Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry at the Science History Institute](#) for a short-term research fellowship.



Dan Kiernan, instructor of biology at USC Sumter, is the recipient of the South Carolina Academy of Science Two-

Year Institution Faculty of the Year Award. He received a monetary award, a plaque and recognition at the South Carolina Academy of Science Annual Meeting held in March 2023 at the Medical University of South Carolina.

In addition, he served as guest scientist for a number of events, including the Alice Drive Elementary School Invention Convention Expo (January 2023), the Alice Drive Elementary School Family STEAM Night (January 2023) and the Manchester Elementary School STEAM Family Night (February 2023).



Eran Kilpatrick, professor of biology at USC Salkehatchie, presented, "Eastern Newt (*Notophthalmus viridescens*)

Localities and Notes From 10 Years of Sampling Across the Southeastern United States," at the Association of Southeastern Biologists Annual Meeting, March 24-25, in Winston-Salem, N.C.



Kathleen Klik, assistant professor of psychology at USC Union, was awarded a 2023 RISE grant to support

summer research titled "An Exploration of Faculty Welfare: The Impact of Campus Social and Work Environment on Faculty Outcomes."

She was also selected by students to be recognized by the "Thank-A-Teacher" Program sponsored by the USC Center for Teaching Excellence.



Andrew Kunka, professor of English at USC Sumter, had an essay, "[How Else Could I Have Created a Black Boy in](#)

[That Era? Racial Caricature and Will Eisner's Legacy](#)," appear in the new collection [Desegregating Comics: Debating Blackness in the Golden Age of American Comics](#), edited by Qiana Whited and published by Rutgers University Press.

He was also awarded a 2023 RISE grant to support summer research titled "Good Comics: Dell, Gold Key, and the History of Comic Books."



The Honorable **Chrissie C. Latimore** was nominated by President Joseph R. Biden Jr., confirmed by the United States

Senate and appointed on Dec. 9, 2022, to serve as the [United States Marshal for the District of South Carolina](#).

Prior to her nomination to the post, Latimore served as an adjunct criminal justice instructor at USC Union and chief of police of the Laurens (S.C.) Police Department.



Dana Lawrence, associate professor of English, had a paper, titled "Redefining Monstrosity in Akwaeke

Emezi's Pet," accepted for presentation at the June 2023 Children's Literature Association

Conference. Her student Chloe Howard also had her paper, titled "Fair and Balanced: Maus, Censorship, and the Holocaust in the Classroom," accepted for presentation.

Howard, was awarded a Magellan Scholar grant for her project, "Censorship and the Holocaust in Children's Literature."

Lawrence and Howard were awarded a 2023 PURE grant to support their summer work on Howard's research project, "Fair and Balanced": Maus, Censorship, and the Holocaust in the Classroom."



Patrick Lawrence, associate professor of English at USC Lancaster, is the 2022-23 recipient of

the Denise R. Shaw Excellence in Scholarship Award for Palmetto College Campuses.

He was featured in a recently released collection, titled [Artful Breakdowns: The Comics of Art Spiegelman](#), which features his essay "In the Shadow of History: Post-9/11 Citational Aesthetics in Art Spiegelman's In the Shadow of No Towers."

In January, Lawrence presented a paper called "Transferred Violence: Race, Labor, and Victimization in *The Bluest Eye*" at the Modern Language Association Annual Convention in San Francisco. He was also awarded an Excel Program grant.

Lawrence also attended the American Comparative Literature Association conference in Chicago from March 16-19, 2023, and presented a paper called "Global License, Domestic Deviance: Editorial Opportunism in a Transnational Literary Market."



Todd Lekan, associate dean of academic and student affairs and professor of philosophy at USC Lancaster, presented a

response to an author-meets-critic session on his book [*William James and the Moral Life*](#) at the Annual Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy Conference in Denver, Col., on March 11, 2023.



Tamika Lewis, counselor and instructor of psychology at USC Lancaster, is a contributing co-author of a chapter titled

“Christian Integration in Human Growth and Development” for the textbook, *Christian Integration in Counselor Education*, edited by John King and Kristy Ford. The book is set for Aug. 31, 2023, release.



Steve Lownes, associate professor of world languages at USC Union, is the 2022-23 recipient of the Chris P. Plyler

Excellence in Service Award for Palmetto College Campuses.



Matt Lynch has been named head men's basketball coach for USC Salkehatchie.

He most recently served as an assistant coach at Chowan University. Lynch previously spent four seasons in various roles at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, beginning as a video

coordinator before being elevated to director of men's basketball operations for the 2018-19 campaign. He was promoted to assistant coach in January 2020.

The Erie, Penn., native was selected to the [2021 “Forbes 30 Under 30 List” as one of the 30 most influential people in the future of sports](#). Lynch earned a B.A. in Health and Physical Education from Edinboro University in 2013 and completed a M.S. in Kinesiology and Sports Psychology from Miami University (Ohio) in 2015.



Helene Maire-Afeli, assistant professor of chemistry at USC Union, was selected by students to be recognized by the “Thank-A-Teacher” Program

sponsored by the USC Center for Teaching Excellence.



Susan Mazzullo has joined USC Lancaster as an instructor of statistics. She earned a M.S. in Applied Mathematics Georgia Institute of Technology.

Julie McCoy, bookstore manager at USC Sumter, retired in October 2022 following a 20-year career with the university.



Bruce McFarling joined USC Sumter in 2022 as an instructor of economics. He earned a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Tennessee.



Ray McManus, professor of English at USC Sumter, has been chosen to receive the South Carolina Governor's

Award for the Arts. Associated with this honor, PBS affiliate SCETV aired short films on the award recipients on the 2023 Governor's Awards for the Arts on May 14. [The recorded broadcast is available to view on YouTube](#). McManus is featured at the [31:13](#) mark.



Luisa Melo, assistant professor of management at USC Sumter, had a book chapter, “Reflections on sustainable

development, sustainability and business practice: Lessons from measurement, scalability and bias in AI” received a review and resubmit. The chapter is part of *Advancing Sustainable Development in the Age of Technologies*, edited by Sharma, R., Gupta, A., and Shishodia, A. (Emerald Publishing).

The chapter, which was selected through a competitive process, is peer-reviewed and the book will be indexed by Scopus.

Melo was selected for induction as an honorary member of the University of South Carolina Chapter, the Upsilon Zeta, of Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society for her support of nontraditional students in the Liberal Studies and Organizational Leadership programs.



Sarah Miller, associate dean for academic and student affairs and professor of history at USC Salkehatchie, was among

three Salkehatchie faculty named to the list of the “People’s Choice Best of the Best: College Professor” presented by *The Press and Standard* (Walterboro) in the March 25 edition.

The documentary film “On With the Show: Celebrating a Century of Allendale’s Carolina Theatre,” co-produced by Miller, was accepted to the More Than Decent Film Festival held in Newberry, S.C., April 21-22.

Miller co-produced another documentary, “[The Hut: A Legacy of the Works Progress Administration in Allendale, South Carolina](#),” which was awarded the Certificate of Merit for Excellence in Historical Filmmaking at the Ogeechee International History Festival. Director of Athletics Jeremy Joye, Dean Emerita Ann Carmichael and retired Associate Dean of Student Affairs Jane Brewer are featured in the film.



Justin Mogilski, associate professor of psychology at USC Salkehatchie, was awarded the 2023 USC

Salkehatchie Faculty Organization for his scholarship.

He also presented a talk titled “Multi-partner maintenance among heterosexuals and bisexuals” at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference in Atlanta, Ga.

Mogilski gave an invited talk at the third annual online symposium hosted by Eduardo Vicentini de Medeiros in the Departamento de

Filosofia at Universidade Federal de Santa Maria in Brazil.

His chapter, “Maintaining multi-partner relationships: Evolution, sexual ethics, and consensual non-monogamy” was published in the [Oxford Handbook of Evolutionary Psychology and Romantic Relationships](#), which he also co-edited.

Mogilski was awarded a 2023 RISE grant to support summer research titled “Using causal network analysis to determine which intimate relationship processes cause the Multi-partner Relationship Maintenance Scale (MRMA) practices to improve relationship quality.”



Erin Moon-Kelly, adjunct professor of music at USC Lancaster, was a part of April Accents. The full cast included:

Erin Moon-Kelly (flute), Dana Lee Walters (piano), Ernest Jenkins (voice), Bette Acker (flute), Erika Dooley (violin) and The Lancaster High School Singers (Troy Dunbar, director) on Sunday, April 16.

Moon-Kelly and the Lancaster County Council for the Arts planned three shows for 2023, including shows on April 16, one on either Aug. 20 or Aug. 27 and one on Dec. 3.



Lee Morris, associate professor of biology, was selected by students to be recognized by the “Thank-A-Teacher” Program sponsored by the USC Center for Teaching Excellence.



Evan Nooe, assistant professor of history and Native American Studies at USC Lancaster and Native American

Studies Center historian, will participate in a conference panel titled “Violence within and against the Native South” for the 2023 Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting taking place in Charlotte has been accepted. Nooe will also present a paper as part of the panel.

He was also awarded a 2023 Palmetto College Campus RISE Grant for his project “Indigenous Dispossession and Settler Colonialism in the Nineteenth Century US South.” The grant helped fund work on his forthcoming book, [Aggression and Sufferings: Settler Violence, Native Resistance, and the Coalescence of the Old South](#), and conference travel this summer.

Nooe also had a paper accepted for presentation at the 2023 meeting for the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic in Philadelphia this July. The paper is titled “Consecrating Dispossession: Settler Death in the Native South.”

He presented “Memories of Jane Johns’ Sufferings: How Florida Settlers Became Victims of Indian Removal” as part of the USC Lancaster Research Club lecture series in February 2023.



Leigh Pate, associate professor of nursing at USC Lancaster, Courtney Catledge, director of the USC Lancaster BSN Collaborative Program and nursing instructor,



Anne Scott, clinical assistant professor of nursing at USC Lancaster and the College of Nursing at USC Columbia, and

other Columbia-stationed nursing faculty were selected to present their RPS work at the Association of Community Health Nurse Educators & Association of Public Health Nurses Joint Conference in San Diego, Calif., in June 2023. Pate, Scott and other Columbia-stationed faculty presented “The Great Escape: Breakout From A Virtual Escape Room” at the IMSH/ Society for Simulation in Healthcare in Orlando, Fla., last week.



Lokendra Paudel, assistant professor of mathematics at USC Salkehatchie, presented, “On Maximal

non-Manis Extensions and Prüfer Extensions” in the Carolina Math Seminar (CMS) at USC Salkehatchie, March 31, 2023.

He presented, “Valuation Overings of Polynomial Ring and Group of Divisibility,” presented in the Southern Regional Algebra Conference (SRAC 2023) in New Orleans, La., on March 24-26, 2023.

Paudel published “Realization of Semilocal I-groups over $k[x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n]$ in the *Journal of Communications in Algebra* in March 2023.

He and co-author S. Tchamna published, “A note on Star-Prüfer Extensions” in *Journal of Mathematics Research*, Vol. 15, No. 2 (2023).



Matthew Rashotte, associate professor of psychology in Palmetto College Columbia, was selected

by students to be recognized by the “Thank-A-Teacher” Program sponsored by the USC Center for Teaching Excellence.



Michele Reese (1973-2023), the late professor of English and director of the Center for Oral Narration at USC Sumter,

published two poems, “[Masters Swimming](#)” and “[Strawberries in Plastic](#),” in *Jasper Writes*. “[Writing a Diversity Statement after 2020](#)” appeared in *About Place Journal* in December 2022. She also appeared in the Dec. 15, 2022, live-streamed broadcast [Center of Gravity Reading Series](#) on YouTube. Her segment appears at the [14:50](#) mark.

She was also selected by students to be recognized by the “Thank-A-Teacher” Program sponsored by the USC Center for Teaching Excellence.

Reese died on July 27, 2023. Her poem, “[Leaving Virginia](#),” from her 2006 book [Following Phia](#) is printed on the back cover of this publication.



Kim Richardson, associate professor of history at USC Lancaster, contributed a chapter, “India, the Indian

Ocean Basin and East Asia,” to a new historical tome, [World History, Volume 1: To 1500](#), published in April 2013.

Mark Roberts, senior instructor of biology at USC Sumter, is the mentor to students Kensley Mask and Mary Terry, who have received a Palmetto Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE) grant for their project, “Assessment of firefly diversity, larval habitat preferences, and associated soil macroinvertebrate communities in Congaree National Park.”



Lisa Rosof, instructor of psychology at USC Salkehatchie, was selected by students to be recognized by

the “Thank-A-Teacher” Program sponsored by the USC Center for Teaching Excellence.



Haley Rowe, interim director of student success and engagement at USC Salkehatchie, was selected

for induction as an honorary member of the University of South Carolina Chapter, the Upsilon Zeta, of Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society for her support of nontraditional students in the Liberal Studies and Organizational Leadership programs.



Deborah Rowell, has joined USC Lancaster as an instructor of criminal justice. She earned a M.S. in Criminal Justice-Law

Enforcement Administration from the University of South Carolina.



Emily Schafer, associate professor of psychology at USC Union, is the recipient of the USC Union Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award.

Two students that she has mentored will be presenting in New Orleans at SEPA (Southeastern Psychological Association Conference) on their summer research – Adverse Childhood Experiences in students on two-year college campuses. The data collected is from Palmetto Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE) grant funding. Schafer and students collected data from three different PC campuses to run a seminar on stress and coping in college.

Schafer presented about “Post-COVID Mental Health of College Students” at the Tenth Annual Congress on Mental Health in Dublin in March. Data collected is from Research Initiative for Summer Engagement (RISE) grant funding. The funding allowed her to expand the summer project to an IRB-approved research study to look at childhood trauma and mental health of students in rural, two-year campuses.

Schafer has a solicited paper under review for a special issue of the journal *Stress, Burnout, and Trauma in Schools: Coping Strategies for Teachers, Staff, and Students*, titled “Trauma-informed care training in schools: a review.” She is also reviewing a paper for the APA journal *Psychological Trauma*, “Investigating the Roles of Stereotype Beliefs and Posttraumatic Cognitions in the Relationship Between Experiences of Discrimination and Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms.”

Schafer coordinated a World Religions Panel as an exposure event for students, staff, and faculty. It was sponsored by the DEI committee. They hosted a luncheon before the panel to share a meal together. Panelists included lay Islamic leader Ibrahim Hanif, Pastor Steve Lemons and Rabbi Yossi Leibovitz. Each discussed the primary tenets of their respective faiths, how they maintain their faith in an increasingly pluralistic America and modeled how to have dialogue across differences.

Schafer was selected for induction as an honorary member of the University of South Carolina Chapter, the Upsilon Zeta, of Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society for her support of nontraditional students in the Liberal Studies and Organizational Leadership programs.



Ashley Schryer, director of student success and retention at USC Lancaster, was selected for induction as an honorary

member of the University of South Carolina Chapter, the Upsilon Zeta, of Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society for her support of nontraditional students in the Liberal Studies and Organizational Leadership programs.



Peter Seipel, associate professor of philosophy at USC Lancaster, presented “Should We Save the Children?”

at the South Carolina Society for Philosophy conference at USC Beaufort.

Jernitha Smith joined the staff of USC Sumter in January 2023 as director of financial and veterans affairs. She previously worked on the USC Columbia campus.



Terrie Smith, the Julian T. Buxton Endowed Professor of Business Administration at USC Sumter has retired.

She served at the Sumter campus for 25 years, teaching 16 different courses in economics and business management, the USC Aiken at Sumter program and Palmetto College program.

In 2005, Smith was the first faculty member to be awarded the Julian T. Buxton Professorship of Business Administration and held that endowed chair ever since.

She also served the University of South Carolina in another capacity as Assistant Provost for Faculty Affairs for seven years.

Publishing over 100 journal articles and conference proceedings and giving 50 invited presentations, Smith has received the USC Sumter Faculty Scholarship Award, the USC Sumter Hugh T. Stoddard Award and the USC Aiken School of Business Administration Southern Bank and Trust Faculty Scholarship Excellence Award, among many other accolades from various entities.

She has devoted herself to a great variety of service activities including 25 committees at USC Sumter as well as the Aiken and Columbia campuses. Smith also served as chair of the Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate, as well as a variety of boards and organizations that support and encourage women in higher education, including the USC Provost’s Advisory Committee on Women’s Issues, chair of the USC

Women's Faculty Organization, executive board member and president of the SC Women in Higher Education, state chair of the Women's Network and southeast regional coordinator of Moving the Needle Initiative with the American Council of Education.



Daniel Stanforth, instructor of Spanish at USC Sumter, was selected by students to be recognized by the "Thank-A-Teacher" Program sponsored by the USC Center for Teaching Excellence.



Rodney J. Steward, associate professor of history at USC Salkehatchie, was awarded a 2023 RISE

grant to support summer research titled "Twisting John Bull's Arm: Sequestration and Confederate Diplomatic Strategy."



Sherri Sullivan, instructor of music at USC Salkehatchie, was selected by students to be recognized by the "Thank-A-Teacher" Program sponsored by the USC Center for Teaching Excellence.



Brittany Taylor-Driggers, associate professor of art and art history and director of campus collections and

galleries at USC Lancaster, had artwork Red Lily featured in the exhibit "We See: Creating from Verse" hosted online by the South Carolina Chapter of National Association of Women Artists. The exhibit ran from March 15 to May 1, 2023.



Suzette Taylor, nursing instructor at USC Lancaster, is the recipient of the USC Lancaster Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award.



Lauren Thomas, adjunct professor of health promotion education and behavior at USC Lancaster,

recently earned the title Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) in November 2022. This distinction is awarded to eligible advanced-level public health educators who successfully pass a competency-based exam administered by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing (NCHEC). Less than 125 public health educators nationwide earn this certification annually.

Thomas recently earned the credential of becoming a Certified Health and Well-Being Coach. This involved participating in a 75-hour accredited training program endorsed by and in collaboration

with the American College of Sports Medicine.

Thomas and Sarah Sellhorst, professor of exercise science at USC Lancaster, are in the process of enhancing select Health Promotion, Education, & Behavior (HPEB) courses at USC Lancaster to align with health coaching principles and healthcare industry-specific job tasks. Having certified faculty on-campus is one major step towards this goal.



Sami Varjosaari, assistant professor of chemistry at USC Sumter, received a 2023 Palmetto College Campus RISE

grant to support the summer faculty research project, titled "Elucidating the structure of Pinckneyin, a potential anti-malarial substance found in Georgia Bark (*Pinckneya Bracteata*)."



Jennifer Weed has joined USC Sumter as an instructor of English. She earned a M.A. in English from Arizona State University.



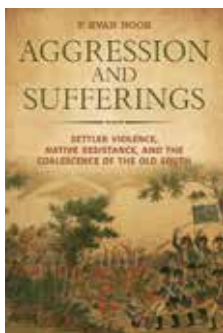
Andrew Yingst, associate professor of mathematics at USC Lancaster, was selected by students to be recognized by

the "Thank-A-Teacher" Program sponsored by the USC Center for Teaching Excellence.

New books by Palmetto College faculty

The faculty from regional Palmetto College campuses and Palmetto College Columbia produce all manner of scholarship to contribute to academia, society and public discourse and consumption, including artwork in different media, screenplays and film production, stage plays, photography, sculpture and, of course, books.

The four most recent entries to this canon include: [*Aggression and Sufferings: Settler Violence, Native Resistance and the Coalescence of the Old South*](#) (University of Alabama Press, December 2023) by F. Evan Nooe, USC Lancaster; [*Penser l'avortement*](#) (Elliott Editions France, April 2023-French translation) co-authored by Kristina Grob, USC Sumter; [*The Oxford Handbook of Evolutionary Psychology and Romantic Relationships*](#) (Oxford University Press, February 2023) co-edited by Justin Mogiliski, USC Salkehatchie; and [*The Smell of Slavery: Olfactory Racism and the Atlantic World*](#) (Cambridge University Press, December 2022-Paperback) by Andrew Kettler, USC Union.



F. Evan Nooe's new book *Aggression and Sufferings*, which will be published at the end of December 2023, reconceptualizes the history of the conquest and erasure of the Native South by European settlers and how it led to the emergence of a "distinct white southern identity."



F. Evan Nooe

According to Nooe, "aggression" and "sufferings" are broad categories that can be used to represent the framework of factors contributing to the coalescence of the white South. According to the publisher's description: "Traditionally, the concept of coalescence is an anthropological model used to examine the transformation of Indigenous communities in the Eastern Woodlands from chieftaincies to Native tribes, confederacies, and nations in response to colonialism. Applying this concept to white southerners, Nooe argues that through the experiences and selective memory of settlers in the antebellum South, white southerners incorporated their aggression against and suffering at the hands of the Indigenous peoples of the Southeast in the coalescence of a regional identity built upon the violent dispossession of the Native South. This, in turn, formed a precursor to Confederate identity and its later iterations in the long nineteenth century."



Penser l'avortement by Kristina Grob and Nathan Nobis is an updated French translation of their book, *Thinking Critically About Abortion: Why Most Abortions Aren't Wrong & Why All Abortions Should Be Legal* (Open Philosophy Press, June 2019).



Kristina Grob

That book "introduces readers to the many arguments and controversies concerning abortion. It focuses on how to think about the issues, not just what to think about them. It is an ideal resource to improve your understanding of what people think, why they think that and whether their (and your) arguments are good or bad, and why. It is described as an ideal text for classroom use, discussion groups, organizational learning and personal reading."



The Oxford Handbook of Evolutionary Psychology and Romantic Relationships, co-edited by Justin Mogiliski and Todd K. Shackelford, showcases

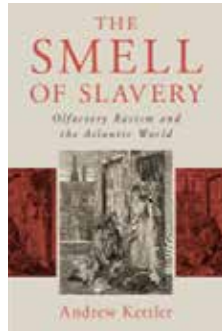
the empirical and theoretical advancements in the evolutionary study of romantic relationships, tracing the psychological mechanisms that shape strategic computation and behavior across the lifespan of an intimate partnership.

According to the publisher's description, the handbook's chapters were "written by global experts in their fields, each chapter provides an overview of historic and contemporary research on the psychological mechanisms and processes underlying initiation, maintenance, and dissolution of romantic relationships. The volume discusses popular and cutting-edge methods for data analysis and theory development, critically analyzing the state of evolutionary



Justin Mogiliski

relationship science. It provides discerning recommendations for future research and integrates a broad range of topics (e.g., partner preference and selection, competition and conflict, jealousy and mate guarding, parenting, partner loss and divorce, and post-relationship affiliation) that are discussed alongside major sources of strategic variation in mating behavior, such as sex and gender diversity, developmental life history, neuroendocrine processes, technological advancement, and culture.”



The Smell of Slavery by Andrew Kettler was first published in April 2020, and this new December 2022 publication is the first paperback edition.

The book describes how “In the Atlantic World, different groups were aromatically classified in opposition to other ethnic, gendered, and class assemblies due to an economic necessity that needed certain bodies to be defined as excremental, which culminated in the creation of a progressive tautology that linked Africa and waste through a conceptual hendiadys born of capitalist licentiousness. The African subject



Andrew Kettler

was defined as a scented object, appropriated as filthy to create levels of ownership through discourse that marked African peoples as unable to access spaces of Western modernity. Embodied cultural knowledge was potent enough to alter the biological function of the five senses to create a European olfactory consciousness made to sense the African other as foul. Fascinating, informative, and deeply researched, *The Smell of Slavery* exposes that concerns with pungency within the Western self were emitted outward upon the freshly dug outhouse of the mass slave grave called the Atlantic World.”

Palmetto College faculty bibliography

Listed herein is an updated abridged bibliography of books from Palmetto College faculty that cover short stories, novels, poetry, nonfiction essays, history, sociology, social science, political science and popular culture – among other topics.

Bellanca, Mary E. *Daybooks of Discovery: Nature Diaries in Britain, 1770-1870*. University of Virginia Press, 2007.

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Evans, Dianne. *Saving Remnants*. Eber & Wein Publishing, 2020.

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Grob, Kristina, and Nathan Nobis. *Penser l'avortement*. Elliot Editions France, 2023.

Hammond, Lisa. *Moving House*. Texas A&M University Press, 2007.

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Palmetto College Faculty Bibliography, continued page 40

Palmetto College faculty bibliography

continued from page 39

- Ivey, Randall K. *Where the Streets Are Paved with Gold: A Novel in the Compton Cycle*, 2015.
- Johnson, Daniel M. *Blood on the Marsh: The adventures of Brigadier William Mackintosh, John Mackintosh Mor, Captain Aeneas Mackintosh, Colonel Anne Mackintosh, General Lachlan McIntosh, Roderick McIntosh, Colonel John McIntosh, Flora MacDonald, Sergeant Allen McDonald and Alexander McDonald of Darien, Georgia*, 2014.
- Johnson, Daniel M. *Brier Creek Battleground: A Revolutionary War Site Beside the Savannah River*. 2017 ed., 2017.
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- Johnson, Daniel M. *Mr. McIntosh's Family: The Mackintosh Clan and the McIntosh Family in the Jacobite risings, the settlement of Darien, Georgia, and the struggle for the Colonial American southern frontier*, 2022.
- Johnson, Daniel M. *Savannah, Augusta & Brier Creek: Samuel Elbert and His Resistance Against the Conquest of Georgia*, 2018.
- Johnson, Daniel M. *The 71st Highlanders in the American Revolution*, 2022.
- Johnson, Daniel M. *This Cursed War: Lachlan McIntosh in the American Revolution*, 2018.
- Johnson, Daniel M. *This Cursed War: Lachlan McIntosh of Georgia and the Tribulations of His Family During the American Revolution*, 2019.
- Jones, R. Mac, and Ray McManus, editors. *Found Anew: Poetry and Prose Inspired by the South Caroliniana Library Digital Collections*. University of South Carolina Press, 2015.
- Kettler, Andrew. *The Smell of Slavery: Olfactory Racism and the Atlantic World*. Cambridge University Press, 2020.
- Kunka, Andrew J., and Michele K. Troy, editors. *May Sinclair: Moving Towards the Modern*. Ashgate Press, 2006.
- Kunka, Andrew J. *Autobiographical Comics*. Bloomsbury Publishing, 2017.
- Kunka, Andrew J. *The Life and Comics of Howard Cruse: Taking Risks in the Service of Truth*. Rutgers University Press, 2021.
- Lawrence, Patrick. *Obscene Gestures: Counter-Narratives of Sex and Race in the Twentieth Century*. Fordham University Press, 2022.
- Lekan, Todd. *William James and the Moral Life: Responsible Self-Fashioning*. Routledge, 2022.
- Lowe, Stephen H. *The Slow Undoing: The Federal Courts and the Long Struggle for Civil Rights in South Carolina*. University of South Carolina Press, 2021.
- McManus, Ray. *Driving Through the Country Before You are Born*. University of South Carolina Press, 2007.
- McManus, Ray. *Left Behind*. Stepping Stones Press, 2008.
- McManus, Ray. *Punch*. Hub City Press, 2014.
- McManus, Ray. *Red Dirt Jesus*. Marick Press, 2011.
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- Reese, Michele N. *Following Phia*. Wordtech Communications Llc, 2006.
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- Rinehart, Christine S. *Sexual Jihad: The Role of Islam in Female Terrorism*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2019.
- Rinehart, Christine S. *Volatile Social Movements and the Origins of Terrorism: The Radicalization of Change*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2013.
- Steward, Rodney. *David Schenck and the Contours of Confederate Identity*. University of Tennessee Press, 2012.

2023 State of South Carolina Service Award Ceremony honors 30- and 20-year state employees

These USC Palmetto College campuses' faculty and staff were recognized for their service (from 20 years onward) to the State of South Carolina in an April 24 ceremony on the USC Columbia campus. In addition, 10-year employees (as well as all employees to mark the 10-, 20, 30, 40- and 50-year milestones) were honored at the USC Palmetto College Tenth Anniversary Celebration, held May 12, 2023, on the Russell House University Union patio.

30 Years of Service

- **Maxie M. "Ron" Cox Jr.**, Campus Dean, Palmetto College Columbia
- **Jonathan B. "Blake" Faulkenberry**, Director of Information Technology, USC Lancaster

20 Years of Service

- **Suzanne M. Goodson**, Bookstore Manager-Allendale/Grants Manager, USC Salkehatchie
- **Darris Hassell**, Senior Instructor of Spanish, USC Lancaster
- **Mary L. Hjelm**, Professor of English, Palmetto College Columbia
- **Leah Kososki**, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor, Palmetto College Central Administration
- **Julie N. McCoy**, Bookstore Manager, USC Sumter
- **Michele N. Reese**, Professor of English, USC Sumter
- **Dwight M. Shabazz**, USC Salkehatchie

10 Years of Service

- **Adam L. Biggs**, Assistant Professor of History and African American Studies, USC Lancaster
- **Jill A. Castiglia**, Senior Instructor of Chemistry, USC Lancaster
- **Rebecca Freeman**, Director of Medford Library, USC Lancaster
- **Garane A. Garane**, Instructor of Foreign Languages, USC Lancaster
- **Jessica T. Gonzalez**, Instructor of Anatomy and Physiology, USC Sumter
- **Jessica L. Goodwin**, Librarian, USC Salkehatchie
- **Miriam P. Horton**, USC Lancaster
- **Allan Pangburn**, Senior Mathematics Instructor, USC Lancaster
- **Dominique H. Waller**, Dual Enrollment Coordinator, USC Lancaster
- **April C. Williams**, Administrative Assistant – Rural Nursing Initiative, USC Salkehatchie



Blake Faulkenberry (center) was honored for 30 years of service to the State of South Carolina at both an April 2023 awards ceremony at USC Columbia and the May 2023 Palmetto College Tenth Anniversary Celebration. Also pictured: USC Lancaster Campus Dean Walt Collins and USC Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins.



The 20-year state service honorees are pictured with USC Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins (second from left). Honorees included Suzanne Goodson, Allendale bookstore manager and grants manager at USC Salkehatchie; Mary Hjelm, English professor in Palmetto College Columbia; Leah Kososki, chancellor's executive assistant in Palmetto College Central Administration; and Darris Hassell, senior instructor of Spanish at USC Lancaster.



UNIVERSITY OF
South Carolina
PALMETTO COLLEGE

**Palmetto College's
10th Anniversary
Celebration**



WELCOME



Palmetto College Campuses Faculty and Staff gather for tenth anniversary celebration

Faculty and staff from the Palmetto College Campuses and Palmetto College Columbia gathered on May 12, 2023, on the patio of the Russell House University Union on the USC Columbia campus to fellowship and celebrate the tenth anniversary of the formation of the University of South Carolina Palmetto College.

The event was an outgrowth of the inaugural Palmetto College Faculty Campuses Faculty Fall (2022) Barbecue sponsored by the Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate.

The new event fostered an “esprit de corps” among Palmetto College Campuses Faculty and Staff,

and it also served as an opportunity to recognize employees for various accomplishments.

Among the recognized accomplishments were Fernanda Burke, Steve Lownes and Patrick Lawrence as winners of the Duffy, Plyler, and Shaw Awards, respectively.

In addition, Ray McManus was recognized as winner of the S.C. Governor’s Award for the Arts.

The event also served as an opportunity to recognize employees who had achieved the 30-, 20- and 10-year service milestones to the State of South Carolina from 2020 through 2022.







USC Lancaster Players perform “The Blurr” at international theatre festival in Greece

Several USC Lancaster students, alumni and faculty recently traveled to Greece with Marybeth Berry, associate professor of theatre and speech, and Tyrie Rowell, financial aid staff member, technical director and adjunct instructor of technical theatre. The duo serve as advisers to the USC Lancaster Players, a dramatic troupe.

The group attended an intensive four-day workshop at the 19th Annual Theatre of Changes Festival. USCL faculty assisted with teaching some of the workshops as well.

The USC Lancaster Players were also invited to premiere an original production — “The Blurr” — on the international stage. While in Greece, all participants were also able to enjoy the historical sites and natural beauty the country has to offer, presenting a unique “beyond the classroom” experience.





Study Abroad experience takes USC Union students to Guatemala

As a component of her summer 2023 course – PSYC 480: Multi-Cultural Psychology, Emily Schafer, assistant professor of psychology at USC Union, took the eight enrolled students to travel to the beautiful Central American nation of Guatemala for 10 days.

This study abroad course applied multi-cultural psychology theory and cultural skills studies to allow students to gain intercultural exposure and understanding, increase awareness of issues facing the world, increase cultural competence and compassion, develop relevant skills in becoming a more effective and engaged world citizen, increase understanding of the role of craft, dance, literacy, and education in a multiethnic society, and foster effective team work among members of the group.

Students were enrolled at the [Maximo Nivel](#) international study abroad program's Antigua campus. They participated in group lessons in cooking, dance, and craft. Students conducted a week long service-learning project, directly teaching and interacting with elementary students at a local public school for children in Antigua. They instructed the children in arts, crafts, games, English and sport.

“Students also participated in cultural competence discussion, activities, and introspection. They had mandatory cultural competence lectures before travel as well as multiple daily journal prompts to help them actively process the experience as they lived it,” said Schafer.

They experienced the ancient Mayan culture, as well as modern day Guatemala, through rich



cultural experiences, including [Chichicastenango](#), Mayan churches and cemeteries, [Hobbitenango](#), San Juan, and Santiago. Students also experienced new ecosystems and natural wonders, including boating around the cities of [Lake Atitlan](#), the black sand beach at El Paredon and hiking the active [Pacaya Volcano](#).

The students plan to share some of their life-changing experiences with University 101 students in the Fall 2023 semester.



Palmetto College Alumni Spotlight

Caden Jackson, '21, '21, '23

Associate of Arts, USC Union

Associate of Science, USC Union

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies, USC Columbia

When Caden Jackson walked across the stage to accept his bachelor's degree at USC Union, he walked exactly as he had for the past four years at school, wearing his mascot shoes and with his dog Zeus by his side.

Jackson, a disabled veteran, decided to go back to school after getting out of the Army. He says that he was inspired to pursue higher education by an experience he had with therapy during this time. "I wanted to help others the way that my therapist helped me," he said.

He majored in sociology with minors in psychology and African American studies with the goal of becoming a therapist himself. "I had gone back to college before and it wasn't for me at that time," he said. "But I went back with a purpose this time, to better myself so that I could better others."

Jackson says that Zeus, his eight-year-old therapy dog, helped him immensely during his education. He was a rescue and was trained as a service dog at Pink Elephant Dog Training. "He's been a great friend," said Jackson. "He was right there with me through every class, every

presentation, staying up until two and three in the morning with me while I was doing homework."

As the end of school approached, Jackson was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, a prestigious honor society for college graduates. He credits a lot of his academic success to Zeus's "calming influence." "If he could tell that I was getting stressed out, he would lay his head on my lap like 'you got it dad,'" he said.

Jackson was also the USC Union mascot, Blaze, during his time in college. He dressed up for special events throughout the county, making an appearance at the WBCU 5K and giving out books at Foster Park Elementary School.

"It was a lot of fun," he said, "and a great way to represent the university."

Jackson will be taking a gap year to work as a teacher's assistant at USC Union. Next year, he plans to attend USC Columbia to get his master's degree. Zeus is now retired as a service dog, and Jackson is having another dog trained to take his place. "I told him that he could just chill out with me as a house pet," he said.

Written by Macy Petty, Union County News



Palmetto College Alumni Spotlight

Valerie Aiken, '23

Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership, USC Columbia

Valerie Aiken, founder and chief executive officer of Health Force LLC, has long had an association with the University of South Carolina. It started with her participation in Upward Bound, one of USC's TRIO programs, as a rising junior in high school, where she met her future husband, Charles.

A first-generation college student, Aiken enrolled at USC Columbia after graduating from Dreher High School, but she left after she married, and her oldest daughter was born. The couple raised two successful daughters: Kimberly is an image consultant who was the first African American woman to be crowned Miss South Carolina 1993 and subsequently crowned as Miss America 1994, and Kristen is a successful attorney.

For the next few decades, Aiken would continue to periodically take classes, but maintained a primary focus on family and building a career in the banking and finance industry. She later pursued a second act as an entrepreneur with healthcare staffing and home health companies.

Yet, the thought of completing her bachelor's degree was never far from her mind.

"I looked at a lot of online programs, but many didn't seem that credible to me. I know the University of South Carolina and I had resources right here if I needed them," said Aiken.

In 2021, amid a global pandemic, USC Palmetto College Online presented an opportunity for Aiken to achieve her goal. "To me it was more credible, and it was a way to finish what I started," she said.

For Aiken, an added benefit to completing her degree through the University of South Carolina System, in general, and Palmetto College, in particular, was the Senior Citizen Free Tuition Program administered by the USC "On Your Time Initiatives" Office. The program offers tuition-free credit courses for South Carolinians, ages 60 and above.

Working in an essential field meant that she traveled a lot for business before and during her matriculation through Palmetto College. Still, she notes that the good thing about it was while she was traveling doing COVID-related business, she could still complete her course requirements and it "worked out perfectly."

"It [Palmetto College] was the best thing for me because running businesses and raising family and civic engagements, all the stuff I do, I did not have time to go to school full-time, or even in-person classes, so this worked out great for me," said Aiken.

"I also found that going back taking classes helped me be more focused with work, with my business too, because I actually used a lot of my knowledge in healthcare with some of the papers I had to write," she added.

Aiken graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership from USC Columbia, through Palmetto College, in May 2023.


She is admittedly a private individual, and she didn't even share with her own children that she was enrolled in Palmetto College until she was a year into the program. She did not want the added pressure of having others tracking her progress.

Now that she has finished her program, Aiken is spreading the word about the opportunities presented by Palmetto College to her own network. "I've told a lot of people about it, you know, especially people that I knew were professionals that needed to have flexibility," she added.

This fall, she will be in the inaugural cohort of graduate students pursuing an online Master of Studies in Law (MSL) degree in health systems law through the University of South Carolina School of Law. She looks forward to using what she has learned through Palmetto College and what she will learn through the law school to enhance her consulting work related to healthcare compliance.



Brock earns 2023 Burggraf Award for highest GPA among nontraditional student learners



Heather Dailey Brock is the 2023 recipient of the David L. Burgraff Award for adult student learners. The award is given annually in recognition of a student – 25 years of age and older – with the highest grade point average in Palmetto College’s Liberal Studies and Organizational Leadership programs or in USC Columbia’s Elementary Education online and hybrid bachelor’s degree completion programs.

The Jacksonville, Fla., native is a graduate of Samuel W. Wolfson High School, and she attended Florida State College in Jacksonville from 1999 until 2003.

Like many students, Heather took some time away from school to build her life. She and her husband have two daughters, ages 12 and 16, at home, as well as two adult daughters.

In 2019, her husband accepted a position with South Carolina Educational Television (SCETV) and the family relocated from Florida to Lexington, S.C., where they currently reside. Upon arriving in South Carolina, Brock decided it was time for her to go back to college and finish her bachelor’s degree.

As she explains it, she wanted not only to prove to herself that she could finish, but she wanted to show her daughters the benefits of being a lifelong learner.

But how does a working mom balance the demands of home and career while also meeting the demands of completing a college degree?

That’s where Palmetto College comes in.

Palmetto College was created to afford students like Brock the accessibility and flexibility they need in order to be successful in their pursuit of a USC degree.

To say that Brock has been successful in completing her undergraduate studies is something of an understatement.

Since beginning her matriculation in the Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership degree program

in Summer 2021, Brock’s academic career has been nothing short of stellar, with her maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA on all of her coursework. In recognition of her academic achievement, she was inducted into the Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor society for adult learners in 2022.

In addition to her academic pursuits, Brock is a lover of nature. And, she has successfully matched her avocation with her vocation, working for the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR).

Upon graduating, she plans to continue working with SCDNR and, in the spirit of lifelong learning, plans to continue her education through graduate-level study. She has not yet decided between pursuing a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree or a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree.

Palmetto College was established to provide accessible and affordable University of South Carolina degree opportunities to all sorts of students, but it is especially important for students like Brock – those whose educational paths don’t take the direct route right after high school, but who – once they decide what they want – need a high quality program flexible enough to fit their busy lives.

And it’s a mutually beneficial relationship, because students like Brock – with the richness of their life experiences – bring much to Palmetto College, not only for her fellow students but for her professors and for the administrators who have had the honor to work with her on her path to graduation.

The award is named for [Dr. David L. Burgraff](#) (1937-2007), the former director of advising of continuing education academic credit programs – as well as instructor of English, who devoted most of his 28-year career at the University of South Carolina to the success of adult students.

Alpha Sigma Lambda induction ceremony honors nontraditional student learners, faculty and academic support staff

The USC Palmetto College Campuses, Palmetto College Columbia and Palmetto College Online programs have many adult learners – those 25 years of age and older – who attend classes during the day, in the evening and online.

To honor those dedicated nontraditional students who adroitly handle life responsibilities while still achieving and maintaining high scholastic standards, Palmetto College held an April 5 induction ceremony for membership in its chapter of the Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society for adult learners.

This year’s student inductees to the University of South Carolina chapter, the Upsilon Zeta, of Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society included liberal studies majors Cecile Bischof (Palmetto College Columbia), Craigon Lennon (Palmetto College Columbia), Caden Jackson (USC Union), Roger Parker (Palmetto College Columbia), Lori Presnell (Palmetto College Columbia), and Chasmyn Smith (USC Union); organizational leadership majors Brad Fabian (Palmetto College Columbia), and Delrico Stevens (USC Lancaster); and elementary education majors Kellie Munsch (USC Columbia) and Alexandria Toborg (USC Columbia).

Each year, a few Palmetto College faculty and staff are selected for induction as honorary members of the chapter. Honorary faculty and staff inductees who provide academic support to our nontraditional students at Palmetto College

Campuses and Palmetto College Columbia included Matilda Ferguson, enrollment support specialist at Palmetto College Columbia; Ashley Schryer, director of student success and retention at USC Lancaster; Haley Rowe, interim director of student success and engagement at USC Salkehatchie; Luisa Melo, assistant professor of management at USC Sumter; and Emily Schafer, assistant professor of psychology at USC Union.

In addition to these inductees, graduating USC senior Heather Dailey Brock was honored as the 2023 recipient of the David L. Burggraf Award for adult student learners. The organizational leadership major had the highest GPA among nontraditional students enrolled in Palmetto College Columbia’s liberal studies and organizational leadership programs and in USC Columbia’s Elementary Education online and hybrid bachelor’s degree completion programs. She was inducted to the honor society in 2022.

Founded in 1945, [Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society](#) recognizes the academic success of adult students. Today, there are more than 300 chartered chapters throughout the United states.



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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA SUMTER FIRE ANT ESPORTS

USC Sumter Fire Ants Esports teams win two NJCAA national championship titles

The USC Sumter Fire Ants Esports teams finished No. 1 in the nation this spring in two National Junior College Athletics Association Esports (NJCAA) National Championships tournaments.

The Rocket League Intra team beat the Northern Virginia Community College NOVA Nighthawks 4-1 to claim its title. The team included students Anthony Hinkle, Bobby Parker, Thomas Glenn, Caleb Bryant Baker and Claytin Urdiales.

The second championship title was won by the Call

of Duty Modern Warfare squad with a 3-1 victory over the St. Clair College Saints. Team members included

Reno Cantel, Angelo Golisano, Jonathan McIntosh, Anthony Perrotto and Dawson Kennedy.

An honorable mention goes out to USC Sumter's Rainbow 6 Siege team who finished No. 2 in the nation after being defeated 1-3 by the Gogebic Community College Samsons. The Rainbow 6 Siege team was comprised

of Benjamin McCoy, Devin Anderson, Nolan DuBose, Aidan Hilditch, Noah Wells and Alvin Myers.





Leadership Salkehatchie cohort travels to D.C. to meet S.C. congressional delegation, federal officials

In April 2023, the 2023 Leadership Salkehatchie cohort toured the Lowcountry Regional Airport in Colleton County where they attended sessions throughout the day that centered around the month's theme of "Regional Resources."

[Leadership Salkehatchie](#) is an initiative of the USC Salkehatchie Leadership Institute, a partnership between Salk and SouthernCarolina Alliance.

The 2023 Leadership Salkehatchie cohort traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with legislators and other government leaders in May 2023. The class is comprised of local civic and business leaders from Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties.

The [USC Salkehatchie Leadership Institute](#) (SLI) was established to help stimulate economic development in the areas it serves – Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton and Hampton counties. Since its inception in 1998, SLI has delivered a wide variety of programs and services which have increased leadership capacity, assisted current and prospective small business owners, fostered the formation of regional organizations and provided workforce development services to K-12 students.

The institute oversees programs in its three areas of emphasis: (1) Leadership Development, (2) Community and Economic Development and (3) Business and Workforce Development.

Palmetto College Online offers four new online bachelor's degree completion programs

With the summer 2023 academic session, Palmetto College Online offers three new online bachelor's degree completion programs to prospective students looking to earn a bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina.

The new degree program offerings include: (1) the **Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with concentration in Finance**, from USC Aiken; (2) the **Bachelor Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing**, also from USC Aiken; (3) a **Bachelor of Arts in Political Science**, from USC Upstate; and (4) a **Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a concentration in Law and Justice Studies**, also from USC Upstate.

The Bachelor of Science in Business Administration program offered by Palmetto College Online through USC Aiken is the only online business degree completion program in South Carolina to be fully accredited by AACSB International, the gold standard for business programs worldwide.

Palmetto College Online launched in 2013 with seven online bachelor's degree completion programs from USC Aiken, USC Beaufort, USC Columbia and USC Upstate. Program offerings have nearly quadrupled in the intervening decade.

With the addition of these four new program offerings, Palmetto College Online enters its eleventh year of service with 27 online bachelor's degree completion programs and concentrations in partnership with the Aiken, Beaufort, Columbia and Upstate institutions within the University of South Carolina System.

In addition, prospective Palmetto College Online students are also able to earn an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree completely online through one of the four regional Palmetto College campuses – USC Lancaster, USC Salkehatchie, USC Sumter or USC Union.

The Palmetto College online bachelor's degree completion programs are offered in six distinct categories:

Business and Leadership

- BS in Business Administration, **Accounting** – USC Aiken
- BS in Business Administration, **Finance** – USC Aiken
- BS in Business Administration, **Management** – USC Aiken
- BS in Business Administration, **Marketing** – USC Aiken
- BS in **Hospitality Management** – USC Beaufort
- BA in **Liberal Studies** – USC Columbia
- BA in **Organizational Leadership** – USC Columbia

Communications

- BA in **Communications** – USC Aiken
- BA in **Emerging Media** – USC Aiken
- BA in Communication, **Public Relations** – USC Upstate
- BA in **English** – USC Upstate
- BA in **Liberal Studies** – USC Columbia

Data Management

- BS in Applied Computer Science, **Cybersecurity** – USC Aiken
- BA in **Health Informatics**, USC Upstate
- BA in **Information Management & Systems** – USC Upstate

Education

- BA in **Elementary Education** – USC Columbia
- BA in **Special Education** – USC Aiken

Healthcare and Helping Professions

- BA in **Health Informatics** – USC Upstate
- BS in **Human Services** – USC Beaufort
- BS in **Nursing (RN/BSN)** – USC Upstate
- BA in **Psychology** – USC Beaufort
- BS in **Psychology** – USC Aiken
- BA in **Public Health** – USC Beaufort
- BS in **Public Health** – USC Beaufort
- BA in **Sociology** – USC Beaufort

Public Service

- BS in **Criminal Justice** – USC Upstate
- BS in Criminal Justice, **Crime Analysis** – USC Upstate
- BA in **Political Science** – USC Upstate
- BA in Political Science, **Law and Justice Studies** – USC Upstate



USC Salkehatchie and USC Lancaster BSN graduates earn perfect NCLEX examination pass rates

The May 2023 Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree graduates of the USC Lancaster Nursing Program, the USC Salkehatchie Nursing Program and USC Columbia's College of Nursing achieved a 100% first-time pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX), a nationwide standardized test for the licensing of nurses in the United States for the last 41 years.

USC Lancaster's BSN Program is a partnership with USC Columbia's College of Nursing. USC Salkehatchie's BSN Program is a partnership with the USC Beaufort Nursing Program. This is the seventh time in the last eight years that USC Salkehatchie has achieved a 100% NCLEX pass rate.

USC Sumter and USC Union graduated their first nursing program cohorts, in partnership with the USC Aiken School of Nursing, in August 2023. Those graduates will take the NCLEX in August.

In addition to these nursing program partnerships on the four regional Palmetto College campuses, registered nurses are able to complete the BSN online in just 12 months through the Palmetto College Online RN-BSN Program, a partnership with the Mary Black College of Nursing at USC Upstate

Through attracting, retaining and training more than 800 nurses each year, the entire USC system is working to address the nursing shortage in South Carolina, which has the lowest nurse-to-population ratio in the country.



USC Sumter and USC Union graduate first BSN program cohorts

The inaugural graduating classes of nurses from the University of South Carolina Aiken at USC Sumter and USC Union were honored with pinning ceremonies on Aug. 3, 2023, before heading out into the healthcare community to serve.

USC Sumter's first program cohort included four BSN graduates; USC Union's first BSN cohort included six graduates.

“Historically, the pinning ceremony is the pinnacle event for any nursing graduate. It’s bigger and it’s better than graduation,” Interim Dean for the School of Nursing at USC Aiken Katie Chargualauf said. “It’s more personable to our profession. So to be pinned is something that is so memorable for any nursing graduate.”

Both programs will welcome their third cohorts of nursing students at the beginning of the Fall 2023 semester.

[This article includes a portion of a story reported by Sam Perez for Columbia, S.C., CBS affiliate WLTX.](#)

The inaugural USC Union nursing graduates (Pictured above from left to right): Nurse Administrator Lynn Edwards, RN-MSN, Makenzie Edwards, Brianna Fish, Maddie Grant, Hannah Hockgeiger, Grace Lee, Carson Nance, and Nurse Faculty Courtney Pinnell, RN-MSN-CEN.



Dangerfield's "Shades of Freedom" lecture examines free people of color from Berkeley County

The Berkeley County Historical Society recently hosted a lecture by David W. Dangerfield, associate professor of history at USC Salkehatchie.

Dangerfield's lecture, "Shades of Freedom," examined free people of color who lived in what is now Berkeley County during the antebellum era.

According to Dangerfield, the rural parishes that surrounded Charleston were home to a few hundred non-whites who were free before the Civil War, but their freedom was limited in scope. They could not vote, could not serve on juries, and they had to pay a yearly "capitation" tax just for being free and not white.

Despite these limitations, Dangerfield described strategies they used to carve out greater degrees of freedom for themselves despite the law. Their tightly knit communities, industry and associations with some white neighbors allowed them to live with a bit more freedom than the law permitted.

"This lecture gave me a chance to share what drew me to this topic – my own family's complicated European, African and indigenous ancestry," Dangerfield said. "I'm grateful to the historical society for the chance to present some of my work in my own hometown."



USC Sumter hosts Call Me Mister Expo to inspire male high school students to pursue teaching careers

USC Sumter, in partnership with Morris College and Clemson University, proudly hosted the highly anticipated Call Me Mister Expo on its campus.

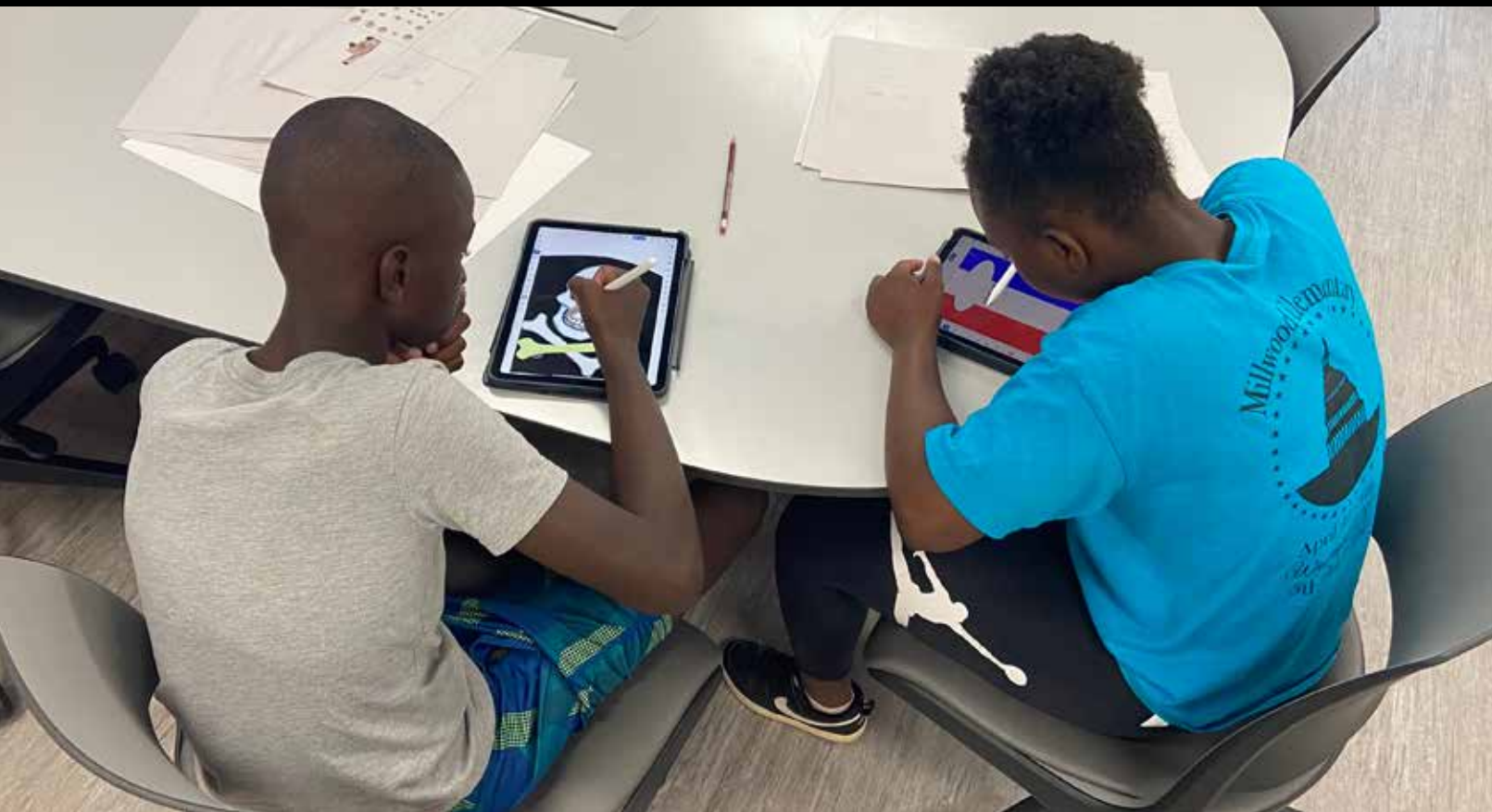
This collaborative initiative brought together over 100 local male high school students with the aim of introducing them to the rewarding and impactful field of teaching.

The Call Me Mister Expo, held on the USC Sumter campus, served as a platform to engage and enlighten male high school students about the opportunities and benefits of becoming educators. By partnering with Morris and Clemson, USC Sumter emphasized its commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive teaching community and addressing the underrepresentation of males in the profession.

The expo featured a range of interactive activities, workshops, and panel discussions led by experienced educators and representatives from the partnering

institutions. These sessions provided invaluable insights into the teaching profession, highlighting the positive impact educators can make on students' lives and the broader community. The participating students had the opportunity to engage directly with professionals in the field, enabling them to gain first-hand knowledge and inspiration for their future career paths.

“We are thrilled to have hosted the Call Me Mister Expo in partnership with Morris College and Clemson University,” said Elizabeth Hawkins, program coordinator of teacher education at USC Sumter. “This event provided a unique opportunity for male high school students to explore the possibilities within the teaching profession. By empowering these young men to consider careers in education, we aim to foster a diverse and inclusive educational landscape that reflects the communities we serve.”



Youth summer camps return to USC Sumter for thirteenth year

“Designing Hollywood” digital design camp debuts at Palmetto College iCarolina Lab

Sumter parents were pleased to see the return of summer camps to the campus of USC Sumter. This year, children had two opportunities to enjoy new experiences with Fire Ant faculty and staff.

For the thirteenth year, Dan “ Dr. Dan The Science Man” Kiernan, instructor of biology at USC Sumter, taught the “Mad About Science” Summer Camp. The week-long camp introduced students to a variety of scientific theories through experiments, projects and even a rocket launch.

This summer, the campus offered a new camp called “Designing Hollywood” which was created and taught by Palmetto College iCarolina Lab Coordinator Kelsie Decker.

These campers learned fundamentals of digital design, allowing them to produce a one-of-a-kind Hollywood movie poster of their choosing.

Working in Adobe Illustrator, on iPads provided by the iCarolina Lab, students created unique movie posters from ideas they had brainstormed earlier in the week. They also designed and constructed a press box that reflected their movie poster.

At the end of the week, campers took home one or more posters and their own completed press box.



USC Lancaster Players win big at the 2023 S.C. Speech and Theatre Association College Festival

The USC Lancaster Players competed in the 2023 South Carolina Speech and Theatre Association College Festival (SCSTA) in April 2023, winning the overall Best School (College Division) with the highest overall points.

USCL students were also well-represented in the competition, bringing home awards in several categories.

In the “Duet Acting” category, USCL duos swept the category with Zach Hathaway and Blaize Berry in first place, Abbey Hunter and Charlie Guiver in second place and Kane Koestner and Cailin Stevens in third place.

USCL students also took top honors in the “Duet Musical Theatre” category, including Cailin Stevens and Blaize Berry in first place, Zach Hathaway and Charlie Guiver in second place and Abbey Hunter and Zach Hathaway in third place.

In the “Musical Theatre Auditions” category, Zach Hathaway won first place and Charlie Guiver won third place.

In the “Animated Voice-Over” category, Blaize Berry came in second place and Charlie Guiver in third place.

For the “Audition Monologues” category, Kane Koestner won second place and Blaize Berry in third.

In the “Storytelling” category, Charlie Guiver came in second place and Yasmin Williams took third.

For the “Dance” category, Cailin Stevens won first place and Yasmin Williams earned second place.

The faculty adviser is Marybeth Berry, associate professor of theatre and speech, and Tyrie Rowell, financial aid staff member and adjunct instructor of technical theatre, represents the group as SCSTA college division vice president.



Union County EMS and USC Union nursing department team up

By Anna Brown, Owner of Union County News

Through a partnership with the nursing program at USC Union, paramedics and EMTs with Union County EMS are getting experience in some serious calls that they don't often encounter.

The program is allowing medics to train in their Nursing Simulations Laboratory on their high-fidelity interdisciplinary patient simulators. The patient simulators blink their eyes, have pupils that constrict when exposed to a pen light, talk, breathe, have a heartbeat, pulse, lung sounds, and other lifelike features.

Nursing Administrator Lynn Edwards said the school is glad to offer the facility to EMS for training. "We have been talking about it since we started talking about building this building," she said.

Union County EMS Assistant Director Robert Martin said the crews are using the time in the Sim Lab to train for difficult calls. "We don't see a lot of difficult calls; we see the same things over and over," Martin said. "This helps our education and makes us better medics.

Difficult calls would be someone having a heart attack and a stroke at the same time. Severe burn victims are difficult calls. Pregnancies – since we don't have OB [obstetrician] in Union anymore- can be difficult calls. We have a 30-minute ride to Spartanburg if you are in town, if you are in Carlisle it is a 45-minute ride."

Jimmy Eubanks, a paramedic with Union County EMS who has a background that includes around 14 years in simulation, assisted with the training, created the scenarios for the crews and controlled the responses of the simulator. He and Martin watched through a two-way mirror as medics entered the scene and treated patients in different scenarios.

"Are you a doctor?," a patient simulator asked medics. "Can't you just take me to the hospital?"

Martin said the lifelike responses are a good learning tool.

"High fidelity is nice for the students because they don't have to have to learn on a live patient," he said.

"It is nice for us to enhance our training and to make



In the USC Union nursing simulation lab, patient simulators blink their eyes, have pupils that constrict when exposed to a pen light, talk, breathe, have a heartbeat, pulse, lung sounds, and other lifelike features.

ourselves better as medics.”

The first scenario was a patient in a structure fire that had sustained burns on more than 90 percent of his body. Medic Christina Lamb and EMT Gerald Privette arrived. They took the patient’s vital signs and began preparing him for a helicopter flight to the Augusta Burn Center.

“I don’t like needles,” the patient told Lamb and Privette.

The patient told the crew he was having trouble breathing. They gave him oxygen and began calculating the amount of fluids he would need.

Martin, playing the role of Medic 6, who responds to back up medics on serious calls, arrived to assist Lamb and Privette. They intubated the patient using a video laryngoscope. This device has a camera near the tip of the blade to improve viewing vocal cords and help prevent damaging them.

After the scenario, Eubanks assessed Lamb and Privette’s response and answered any questions they

had. They said the exercise was valuable for many reasons, including that it showed them they needed a review on how to determine how much fluids should be given to a burn patient.

Other scenarios the medics went through included a call where a stroke victim has a heart attack, a call to a patient who is already on a ventilator and needs transport to another facility, a traumatic arrest stabbing patient, and a STEMI patient. STEMI, or ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction, is a heart attack that occurs when a major artery feeding into the heart is completely blocked, changing blood flow to the organ and the electrical current in the lower chambers.

Martin said plans are for the Paramedics and EMTs to train on the patient simulators at least quarterly.

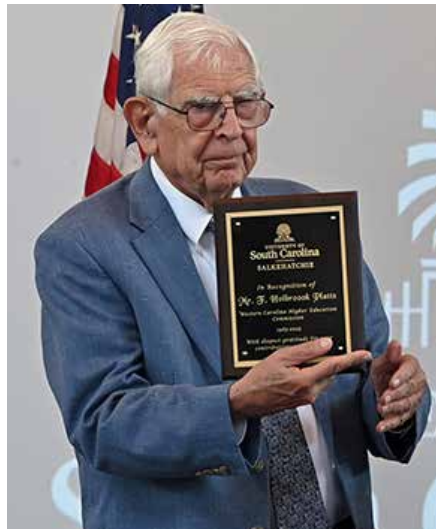
“This improves our skills and treatment modalities,” Martin said. “This gives us a place to go, and we don’t have to go to Spartanburg for training. We are thankful!”

Platts recognized for 40 years of service to Salk, WCHEC and region

The University of South Carolina Salkehatchie and the Western Carolina Higher Education Commission (WCHEC) recognized F. Holbrook Platts for 40 years of service to the university, the commission and the Salkehatchie community at Salk's spring 2023 commencement ceremony.

Reid Boylston, chair of the Western Carolina Higher Education Commission, presented Platts with a plaque commemorating his service. "During his 40 years of service, the commission experienced many challenges and opportunities," Boylston said. "His leadership has been invaluable and allows USC Salkehatchie to continue to thrive."

Platts represented Hampton County on the WCHEC board



since 1983, during which USC Salkehatchie's enrollment grew to a high of 1,200 students. He served in many roles on the commission, including his most recent role as

secretary. Along with his wife Martha, the Platts established an endowed scholarship that is awarded annually to a Hampton County resident, allowing many students to benefit from their generosity.

"Mr. Platts has played an integral role in USC Salkehatchie's growth and success. His 40-year contribution is indicative of his dedication and unwavering support of USC Salkehatchie, our students, faculty, staff, and local communities. We are honored to recognize Mr. Platts for his commitment and loyalty. We wish him the best," said USC Salkehatchie Campus Dean April Cone.

Platts retired from the Western Carolina Higher Education Commission board in June.

"Broadening Narratives" grant update

Telling the underrepresented stories and preserving the living traditions of South Carolina's Lowcountry tribal communities continues this summer through USC Lancaster's Native American Studies program, thanks to the generous "Broadening Narratives" grant from the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation.

Since the project was announced in December 2021, Native American Studies Director Stephen Criswell has interviewed artists, tribal leaders, powwow participants, and other citizens from the Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians, Edisto Natchez-Kusso Tribe, Santee Indian Organization, Beaver Creek Indians and Waccamaw Indian People. He also has documented powwows, festivals and community gatherings, and met with artisans.

Behind the scenes of the exhibit development, the grant also has allowed the Center to store, archive and catalog artwork and artifacts from the fieldwork.

Criswell spent time in the Lowcountry earlier this spring, connecting with artists and planning to show their work in an exciting new phase of the project.

"We will conclude this part of the project with hours of oral histories, videos of powwows and other community celebrations and incredible pieces of

artwork, including hand-made canoe paddles, a drum and beadwork," said Criswell. "Selected images, videos and materials from the project will be developed into an exhibit at our Center that will be offered in whole or part to the individual Lowcountry communities in the near future.

We are so grateful for the support of the Donnelley Foundation for this collection project and for the support of the tribal communities in the Lowcountry. It was a wonderful experience spending time with the different tribal members, attending powwows, and learning more about the history and culture of the Indigenous inhabitants of the South Carolina coast."

Criswell's research will help preserve largely undocumented traditions and stories in tribal communities with roots in the Lowcountry, a significant site for Native American tribes across the region for trade and a nexus for interaction with European settlers and enslaved Africans.

The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation supports land conservation, artistic vitality, and regional collections for the people of the Chicago region and the Lowcountry of South Carolina. For more information on the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, visit www.gddf.org.



USC Sumter hosts “Women in STEM” panel discussion

USC Sumter’s DEI Committee hosted a Women in STEM Panel Discussion in March as part of the International Women’s Month celebration. The event aimed to shed light on the progress made and challenges faced by women in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

Led by the late Michele Reese, an esteemed English professor at USC Sumter, the panel featured distinguished experts from various STEM domains who explored the efforts being made to address the underrepresentation of women in these fields. The panelists included:

- Carol Alan, OB-GYN with PRISMA Health
- Cheri Tisdale, Biology Instructor at Central Carolina Technical College and Dental Hygienist with Mona T. W. Ellis
- Melissa Moss, Chair of Chemical Engineering at USC
- Becky Hillman, Professor of Mathematics at USC Sumter

Each panelist brought their unique perspective and experience to the discussion, and not only showcased the achievements of women in traditionally male-dominated fields but also aimed to inspire and empower the next generation of female scientists, engineers, and mathematicians. By raising awareness of the challenges faced by women in STEM, the event fostered an environment of inclusivity and collaboration to drive further progress in achieving gender equity in these disciplines.

Increased foundation and commission efforts make a USC Lancaster education more affordable

USC Lancaster Campus Dean Walt Collins is proud to announce that the Educational Foundation of USC Lancaster will make over \$350,000 in scholarships available to eligible USC Lancaster students beginning with the 2023-24 academic year. The foundation aims to lessen the financial burden for students and their families with these awards, and encourages all students to apply.

In addition to the foundation scholarships, the Lancaster County Commission for Higher Education has pledged to cover qualifying book fees for Lancaster County residents beginning with the Fall 2023 semester. The significance of this support is unprecedented at USC Lancaster.

The foundation and commission have each shown a remarkable commitment to higher education in Lancaster County through the years, helping to make USC Lancaster one of the most affordable options in all of South Carolina. Their efforts, together with a tuition rate that has been the same for five years, promise to reach as much as \$600,000 in student aid during the coming year, an unprecedented show of support for USC Lancaster students.

Whether a traditional student starting college after high school, an adult learner returning to school or a high school dual enrollment student, USC Lancaster has an affordable and convenient educational path tailored to meet their needs.

Lily Bell Daniels Seabrooks Nursing Scholarship Program established at USC Salkehatchie

Reprinted from The People-Sentinel (Barnwell, S.C.)

In honor of their mother's 100th birthday observance, the children of Lily Bell Daniels Seabrooks have asked 100 of her closest friends to donate \$100 in support of the Lily Bell Daniels Seabrooks Nursing Scholarship Fund.

The funds will be used as tuition assistance for a local Allendale resident who has been accepted into the USC Salkehatchie nursing program.

"Our mother would have made an excellent nurse – she was smart, kind, empathetic, compassionate, and had a heart for healing," as reminisced by the eldest daughter, Ivory Whitaker.

This fund, established in September 2022, aims to increase rural student involvement with hopes of eliminating financial burdens while providing academic opportunities.

"As a child, we remember her sharing stories of how 'Big Ma' would show her how to find herbs and other medicinal vegetation in the woods to tend various

ailments. Although her formal education stopped at the 8th grade, we all believed that had she been exposed to a different place and time, and would have pursued a

degree in nursing," states her family.

Seabrooks (1922-2022) passed on Sept. 16, 2022, just a few days shy of her 100th birthday.

Therefore, to honor her model efforts to human life, her family would like to pay it forward and bless a future nursing student and



Lily Bell Daniels Seabrooks

support that individual's pursuit of the profession.

"Can we count on you to be one of the 100 individuals who accepts this invitation by responding yes to pledge your commitment? My siblings and I will match dollar-for-dollar up to the 100-person commitment received. Your pledge is important to meeting this goal," states the family.



Kiwanis Club of Sumter establishes endowed scholarship for first-gen students pursuing education degree at USC Sumter

The Kiwanis Club of Sumter, a renowned community service organization dedicated to serving the children of Sumter, the nation and internationally, proudly announces the creation of the Kiwanis Club of Sumter Endowed Scholarship.

This scholarship aims to support first-generation students seeking a four-year education degree through the USC Aiken at Sumter Early Childhood and Elementary Education Program.

Celebrating its 101st anniversary on June 20, 2023, the Kiwanis Club of Sumter has a long-standing commitment to enhancing the lives of children within the community. Over the past two decades, the club has made a significant impact through initiatives such as the "Terrific Kid" program, which has positively influenced countless young lives in Sumter. Additionally, the club has been instrumental in sponsoring Key Clubs at local high schools, making it the leading organization in high schools across the United States.

Recognizing the importance of education and the need to support aspiring teachers, the Kiwanis Club of Sumter has been providing annual scholarships to students at USC Sumter since 1968. Building upon this rich history of educational support, the club has

decided to establish an endowed scholarship to further empower students pursuing their dreams of becoming educators.

The Kiwanis Club of Sumter Endowed Scholarship will not only provide financial assistance but also serve as a symbol of encouragement and support for first-generation students. By partnering with the USC Aiken at Sumter Early Childhood and Elementary Education Program, the scholarship aims to foster the growth of passionate educators who will make a lasting impact on the lives of young learners.

To amplify the impact of the Kiwanis Club of Sumter Endowed Scholarship, USC Sumter is thrilled to announce that the scholarship funds will be matched dollar for dollar by the prestigious Williams Brice Edwards Matching Fund. This fund, dedicated to supporting new endowed scholarships, demonstrates the community's commitment to investing in the education and future of Sumter's youth.

During a ceremony at USC Sumter, the first installment of the Kiwanis Club of Sumter Endowed Scholarship was presented on July 6, 2023, marking a significant milestone in the club's enduring legacy of service and support.



W. Brent Burgin Archives officially unveiled at USCL's Native American Studies Center

The late W. Brent Burgin (1959-2022), director of archives at USC Lancaster, had a dramatic impact as an archivist. So much so, that his legacy lives on in many forms.

Burgin, who died June 20, 2022, after battling ALS, helped establish the Native American Studies Center's Archive and create USCL's University Archive. He also curated the papers of the Archaeological Society of South Carolina, also located at USCL. At the time of retirement in August 2021, Burgin was the only archivist within the Palmetto College and presumed to be the only one in Lancaster County.

At its June 2022 meeting the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees approved the naming of the W. Brent Burgin Archives in his honor. On June 20, 2023, the one-year anniversary of

his passing, the [W. Brent Burgin Archives](#) was officially unveiled at the Native American Studies Center.

Burgin embodied the spirit and intent of Palmetto College, particularly in returning to school to launch a second career after completing a successful career in hotel sales and operations. Burgin pursued and received a bachelor's degree from USC Upstate in 2000, a Master of Library and Information Science from USC in 2002 and a graduate certificate in library and information science in 2006. The latter led to an internship at USC Lancaster that became a career, and a calling.

That calling led to Burgin bringing greater recognition to the stories of Native Americans in South Carolina and the USC Lancaster story through the establishment of the [Native American](#)

[Studies \(NAS\) Archive](#), the USC Lancaster Archive, and the online [Native American South Carolina Archive \(NASCA\)](#), a comprehensive digital archive for tribal histories, photos, correspondence, oral histories and more. The latter online archive was developed through a collaboration between the physical archive, the USC University Libraries Digital Collections and the USC Institute for Southern Studies. Burgin was also active in digital outreach through the development of the NASCA. Since 2010, the NAS Archive has been honored by the American Folklore Society and the South Carolina Archival Association.

Burgin also developed the [NASC's monthly Lunch and Learn Lecture Series](#), coordinating the popular public outreach program since its introduction in 2013. Over 100 Lunch and Learn programs have been presented to date.

According to a proverb of the Santee Sioux Tribe, "We will be known forever by the tracks we leave." Burgin was individually honored time and again for his work and this calling. In 2017, he

received the Wilkerson Award, an advocacy award from the American Indian Party of Charlotte. In 2018, the Archaeology Society of South Carolina named Burgin the Distinguished Archaeologist of the Year, and the S.C. Archival Association created an endowment in his honor. In 2019, USC Lancaster created an endowed lecture series to extend the work of the Lunch and Learn Series that he created in 2013. In 2021, he was the inaugural recipient of the Katawba Valley Land Trust's D. Lindsay Pettus History Award. And, in June 2022, the Board of Trustees of the University of South Carolina approved the naming of W. Brent Burgin Archives. A scholarship in his honor has also been established.

Like his many awards and accolades, the unveiling of the named archive in June 2023 is a tangible and lasting reminder of Burgin's impact on USC Lancaster, the Native American Studies Center, within the USC System, within the community and in his profession.

Ashley Lowrimore contributed to this article.



“Resurgence and Renaissance” opens at Columbia Museum of Art

Building on an exhibit showcasing Catawba arts and culture displayed half a century ago, the [Native American Studies Center \(NASC\) at USC Lancaster](#) has partnered with the Columbia Museum of Art to present the exhibit, “Resurgence and Renaissance: Art of the Catawba Nation since 1973,” which opened June 10 at the [Columbia Museum of Art](#).

In 1973, University of South Carolina graduate student Steve Baker developed a show of Catawba pottery at the Columbia Museum of Art, “Catawba Indian Trade Pottery of the Historic Period,” featuring work by Sara Ayers, Doris Blue, Georgia Harris and Arzada Sanders. The exhibit led to further exhibitions both locally at the Museum of York County and nationally at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

“The exhibit in 1973 marked one of the first times, if not the first, that Catawba Nation pottery was exhibited as art,” said Stephen Criswell, director of Native American Studies at USCL. “After the exhibit, potters began selling their work at prices more appropriate for handmade unique works of art, and their pottery began attracting more attention from collectors, museums and academics.”

While the 1973 exhibit focused on Catawba pottery, “Resurgence and Renaissance” has expanded into a showing of over 60 traditional and contemporary artworks, including Catawba pottery, quilts, baskets, and photographs and more.

The exhibit is curated by CMA Director of Art and Learning Jackie Adams and by USCL Director of Campus Collections and Galleries Brittany Taylor-Driggers, with contributions from NASC Program Assistant Beckee Garris, who worked on English-to-Catawba language translations on exhibit labels, and NASC Assistant Curator Alex Osborn, who created pottery lineage timelines. Edits and contributions also were made by Criswell.

Garris and Osborn both have artwork on display as part of the exhibit, including long leaf pine needle baskets by Garris and digital artwork and photography by Osborn.

Garris, who is also Catawba Language and Cultural Keeper for the Catawba Nation, was approached about adding the Catawba words for pottery and other artworks in the exhibit.

“I am grateful for every opportunity to promote my people and our language,” said Garris. “It’s an honor to be able to be part of an exhibit ‘about us, through us, and with us.’ I am re-editing what Dr. Wenonah G. Haire (Executive Director of the Catawba Cultural Center), has often quoted, ‘about us, through us, but without us,’ meaning that in most cases, folks come to us for information but mostly leave us out of their finished

project.”

To learn more about the Catawba, Garris encourages visitors to not only visit the Columbia Museum of Art exhibit, but also to visit the [Catawba Cultural Center](#) in Rock Hill, S.C., and the Native American Studies Center at USC Lancaster.



Baskets from Faye Greiner will be part of the CMA exhibit.
Photo credit: Alex Osborn.

“One exhibit will give you a small snippet of what we are and do. Folks should visit multiple places to get a fuller, better understanding of who we are,” said Garris. “I hope visitors take away that the Catawba are still here, still creating, and not only an important part of the history of this country, but also an important part of continuing to add to history today.”

This summer at the NASC, Adams, Criswell and Taylor-Driggers presented “Resurgence and Renaissance: Art of the Catawba Nation Since 1973, A Columbia Museum of Art Exhibit” for the [July edition of the W. Brent Burgin Lunch & Learn Lecture Series](#). The trio also discussed the current and original exhibits, as well as explored the diversity of Catawba Nation artwork.

“Resurgence and Renaissance: Art of the Catawba Nation since 1973,” can be seen through Sunday, Sept. 3, at the Columbia Museum of Art. To learn more about the exhibit, or to learn more about the public programs offered in conjunction with the exhibit, visit the CMA website at www.columbiamuseum.org.

the Columbia
Museum of **ART**

Resurgence and Renaissance

Art of the Catawba Nation since 1973

June 10 – September 3, 2023



The CMA is partnering with the University of South Carolina at Lancaster for this exciting exhibition featuring a range of arts and artists of the Catawba Nation from 1973 to the present, showing the living traditions of Catawba arts, culture, and heritage. Catawba pottery is the centerpiece of the exhibition — the oldest continuous ceramics tradition in North America, dating back thousands of years — shown alongside basketry, quilt works, and photography.

This is a 50-year anniversary exhibition that builds off a 1973 CMA exhibition of Catawba potters recognized as pillars of excellence in their craft. Since then, the pottery traditions of the Catawba Nation continue to be passed down through generations. This exhibition showcases how the Tribe continues to preserve its heritage through artistic traditions and innovation. It also features archival photos of makers, processes, and people who helped shape the 1973 show and who conducted Tribal research over the last five decades.

The Catawba Nation is the only federally recognized Tribe in South Carolina. Largely a matriarchal community, its citizens traditionally pass pottery arts down through the women of the Tribe, but some men are also taught. The Catawba pottery tradition is only taught to Catawba citizens and remains a guarded and protected art form of the Tribe. Today, the CMA collection holds 13 Catawba pottery objects ranging from vessels such as bowls and vases to animal effigy pieces featuring elephants, birds, snakes, and the heralded Catawba Chief King Hagler (c. 1700–1763). Some of this collection will be included, such as a rare effigy of an elephant by Arzada Sanders. *Resurgence and Renaissance: Art of the Catawba Nation since 1973* includes some of the finest Catawba makers over the last 50 years, including those practicing in pottery, baskets, quilts, and photography today.



Michele N. Reese, Ph.D.
Professor of English
USC Sumter

(1973-2023)

LEAVING VIRGINIA

When the sun warmed winter's patches of snow,
we threw reins over horses,
rode up into the still brown Shenandoah.
I began to anticipate leaving—

the green lushness
that would cover these mountains.
Trotting side saddle next to her mount
I leaned toward her

to catch the cuff of her flannel in my hand
before slippin Western
to gallop bareback through overgrown trails.
Jumping over fallen trees—

the ones that did not survive the weight of icicles.
I succumbed, and my laugh carried
everything that was possible
and impossible under these sycamores.

Reese, Michele N. *Following Phia*.
Wordtech Communications, 2006.