

University of South Carolina Palmetto College

# CONNECTIONS

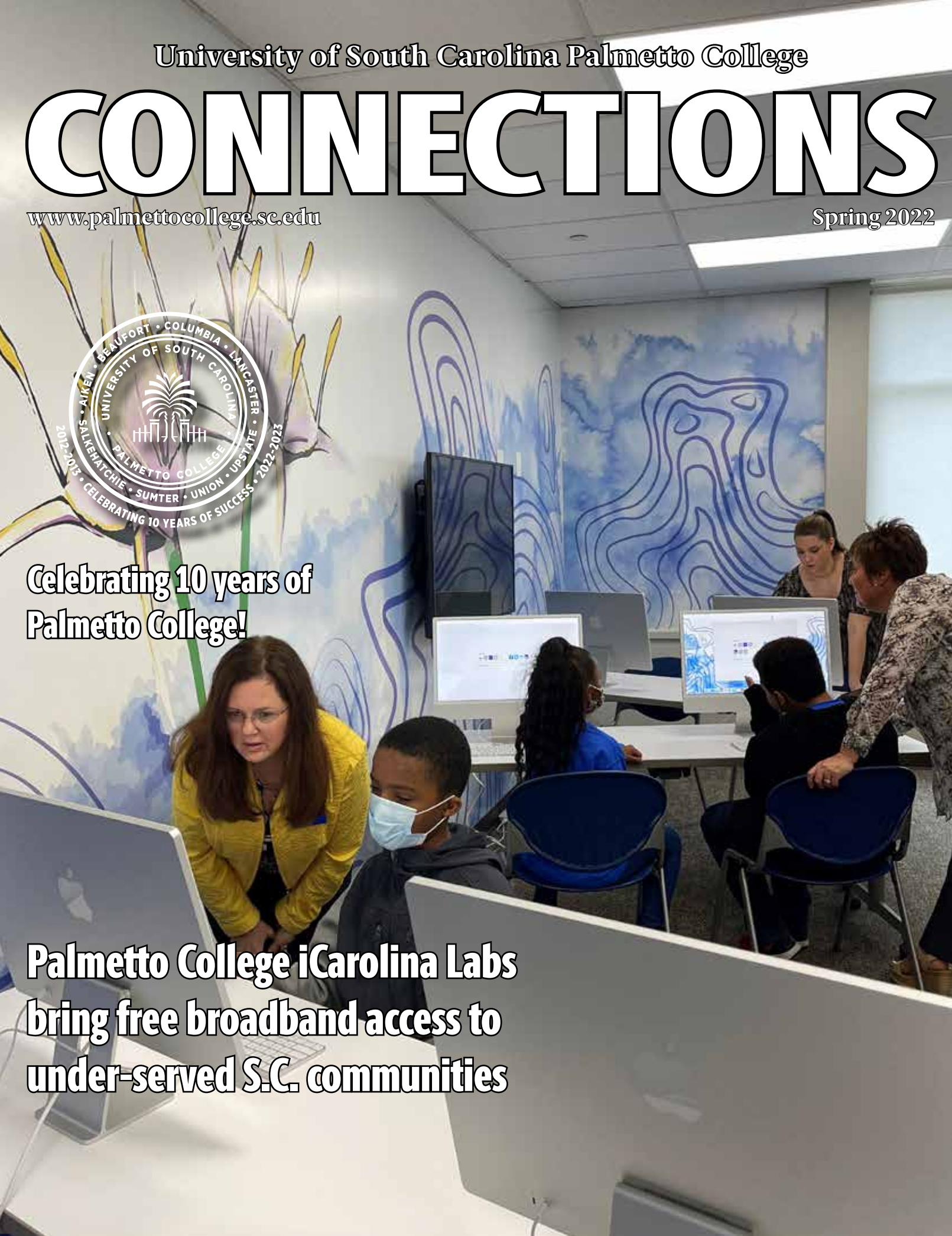
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Spring 2022



**Celebrating 10 years of  
Palmetto College!**

**Palmetto College iCarolina Labs  
bring free broadband access to  
under-served S.C. communities**





**Please submit all items for the Fall 2022 edition no later than Thursday, Nov. 10, 2022.**

**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**  
[Shana Dry](#)

**USC Salkehatchie**  
[Stephanie Gruber](#)

**USC Sumter**  
[Alethia Hummel](#)

**USC Union**  
[Annie Smith](#)

**Palmetto College Columbia**  
[Jean Carrano](#)

**Palmetto College Central and Online**  
[Jason Darby](#)

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:

Members of the Lancaster County community explore the new **Palmetto College iCarolina Lab at USC Lancaster**.

Thanks to a \$6 Million grant to the University of South Carolina and Benedict College from S.C. Governor Henry McMaster, eight Apple computer labs are opening statewide to address broadband deserts in rural South Carolina communities. Six of the community computer labs have been planned for regional Palmetto College campuses. As of early May 2022, three of the six planned Palmetto College iCarolina Labs have opened.

The **Palmetto College iCarolina Lab at USC Union** (above) opened on Feb. 25, 2022, and is located in the Union County Carnegie Library.

The **Palmetto College iCarolina Lab at USC Lancaster** opened on April 7, 2022, and is located in room 102 of the James Bradley Arts and Sciences Building.

The **Palmetto College iCarolina Lab at USC Sumter** opened on May 10, 2022, and is located on the second floor of Anderson Library.

Learn more about the new Palmetto College iCarolina Labs community initiative on page 12.



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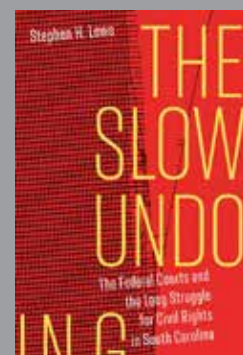
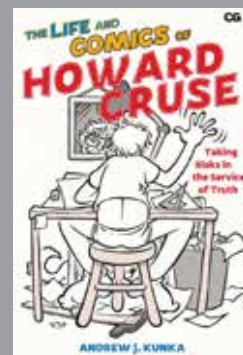


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*Several Palmetto College students and alumni spoke to a group of Palmetto College donors and supporters about the impact of Palmetto College on their lives at a March 2021 event. Pictured above (from left): Melinda Carr, chair of the Palmetto College Board of Visitors; Juliana Glynn, '20, USC Sumter and UofSC Columbia alum and regional Palmetto College coordinator at USC Salkehatchie; Missy Melton, '21, '22, USC Lancaster and UofSC Columbia alum; Caden Jackson, '21, USC Union alum and UofSC Columbia student; Christopher Williams, USC Union; Annalee Wyatt, '22, USC Union & UofSC Columbia; Brittany Hightower, USC Union; and USC Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins.*



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This spring, the University of South Carolina Palmetto College officially launched its tenth year of success and service to communities across South Carolina (page 8). Thanks to dedicated faculty and staff across our regional Palmetto College campuses – USC Lancaster, USC Salkehatchie, USC Sumter, USC Union – and Palmetto College Columbia, as well as our Palmetto College Online partners at UofSC Columbia, USC Aiken, USC Beaufort and USC Upstate, we have been able to fulfill a mission and promise to students, families and communities across South Carolina. We are succeeding in fulfilling that promise to provide an accessible, affordable and flexible University of South Carolina education to people and communities across South Carolina and beyond.

We have many to thank for our launch and continued success.

First and foremost, many thanks to University of South Carolina President Harris Pastides for his vision and leadership to create this innovative, transformative, system model that includes the four regional Palmetto College campuses, coupled with the more than 20 online bachelor's degree completion programs and our newly created Palmetto College Columbia! Without your creativity, innovation and strong leadership, we would certainly not be here celebrating a decade of success!

Second, to First Lady Patricia Moore-Pastides, we are deeply grateful for your dedication and staunch support of Palmetto College and our mission of serving students across this great state by providing accessible, affordable and flexible degrees at both our brick-and-mortar institutions and through our online bachelor's degree completion programs. We have always known that your heart is constantly with us as we fulfill our Palmetto College mission!

To University of South Carolina President-Elect Michael Amiridis, thank you for your leadership in launching Palmetto College, and being a champion from our inception and launch during your prior term as university provost. Your initial work and leadership provided a strong foundation for our first decade of success. We welcome your vision for continued growth of the

work of our regional Palmetto College campuses within local South Carolina communities and the further expansion of our online degree offerings for all South Carolinians through Palmetto College Online!

To incoming First Lady Ero Aggelopoulou-Amiridis, we have greatly appreciated your foundational support of Palmetto College, and we look forward to expanding that relationship and support!



In addition, we owe a debt of gratitude to the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees, the South Carolina General Assembly and state and

local leaders, including our state and regional Commissions on Higher Education.

Finally, thank you to our outstanding faculty and staff across Palmetto College for their dedication and deep commitment to serving our students every day. Thank you!!!

## Enrollment

In its first decade, Palmetto College has made a statewide impact, helping South Carolinians attain degrees where they live and work. Our unique structure – campuses in Allendale, Lancaster, Laurens, Sumter, Union and Walterboro, along with sites in Columbia, Fort Jackson, Indian Land, Lexington and Shaw Air Force Base, at 53 high schools across the state for dual credit and early college, and online bachelor's degree completion programs available from anywhere – puts Palmetto College at the forefront of meeting the entire state's educational needs.

Over 6,600 students were served during the Fall 2021 semester, with enrollment from every county in the state since the inception of Palmetto College. Studies have shown that education is a key to unlocking future economic prosperity, and Palmetto College helps fill the education gap in South Carolina, which ranks 37th in the nation in four-year degree attainment.

The regional Palmetto College campuses serve rural and under-served areas across the state. Palmetto College Columbia, an academic unit based on the UofSC Columbia campus, features Fort Jackson associate degree programs, two Palmetto College bachelor's degree programs and Palmetto Pathway, a

residential freshman bridge program.

Thirty-eight percent of these Palmetto College campus students are under-represented minorities, and 90 percent of those students choose to remain in South Carolina after they graduate. Palmetto College campuses are raising the educational levels of South Carolina's students and communities of deepest need.

During the Spring 2022 semester, Palmetto College served over 4,800 students from local communities across the state, an increase of over 37 percent from a decade ago, through its regional Palmetto College campuses and Palmetto College Columbia.

Our online degree programs have grown tremendously since our 2013 launch. We began with seven online bachelor's degree programs from our four-year degree-granting partner institutions, but have expanded to 24 online bachelor's degree completion programs. And prospective students can now earn an associate degree completely online from one of our regional Palmetto College campuses.

As of Spring 2022, more than 2,700 students had completed their degrees through Palmetto College Online. Since our inception, 5,943 students have enrolled in one of the now 24 online bachelor's degree completion programs, with more than 55,000 individual enrollments in the 4,162 courses offered to-date.

The four newest Palmetto College Online bachelor's degree completion programs launch this upcoming Fall semester and include the BA in Emerging Media (USC Aiken), the BA in Public Health (USC Beaufort), the BA in English (USC Upstate) and the BA in Communications (USC Upstate).

Palmetto College Online programs have served students from all 46 of South Carolina's counties.

The impact of the Palmetto College initiative established by Presidents Pastides and Amiridis is evident. For example, over 1,000 students have earned their bachelor's degrees in nursing through our on-campus partnerships with the UofSC Columbia College of Nursing (USC Lancaster), the USC Aiken School of Nursing (USC Sumter and USC Union), the USC Beaufort Department of Nursing (USC Salkehatchie) and our online partnership with USC Upstate's Mary Black College of Nursing. The resulting BSN graduates address a nursing

shortage across the state, especially in rural under-served areas.

Palmetto College has made a tremendous difference in the state by addressing the high need for degrees for the state's workforce, creating a positive impact on economic development and improved quality of life for South Carolinians.

### Community Involvement

The improvement of quality of life for South Carolinians in the communities surrounding our Palmetto College campuses includes the University of Possibilities program and summer camps for elementary and middle school students.

This year has also seen the launch of Palmetto College iCarolina Labs ([page 12](#)) – Apple computer community learning centers – providing free broadband internet entire families in “broadband deserts.”

The funding for the labs came courtesy of S.C. Governor Henry McMaster who provided a \$6 Million grant to the University of South Carolina and Benedict College from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund to launch eight community Apple labs across South Carolina. Six of the labs have or will be opened this year on Palmetto College campuses. To date, we have opened Palmetto College iCarolina Labs in the Union, Lancaster and Sumter communities. Many thanks to Gov. McMaster for his largesse and to the UofSC Office of Economic Engagement for assisting us in facilitating this community initiative.

### Fundraising

We have been quite fortunate to have generous donors who have supported Palmetto College, our students, campuses and initiatives. We are extremely grateful for their most generous support through philanthropic gifts that have exceeded \$14 Million over the last nine years – well exceeding our goal of \$1 Million per year (or \$9 Million at the end of our ninth year of service). In addition, we have raised over \$14 Million additional dollars through Sponsored Awards Management with grants and other comprehensive awards. Cumulatively, we have raised nearly \$30 Million in total funds in our first full decade.

### Salary Study Update

In the April 2022 Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate meeting, I shared news with the assembled faculty that bears sharing with both faculty and staff regarding the 2018-19 Faculty Senate Welfare Survey Report and the ongoing measures taken to address the recommendations from that report.

Palmetto College leadership is committed to improving salaries across Palmetto College as was indicated by conducting the initial 2018-19 Salary Study. Based on those recommendations, \$100,000 was applied toward salary funding in FY19-20. COVID-19 interrupted contributions to the Salary Study in FY20-21. Based on the 2018-19 study, 91 individuals were given a salary increase of \$500 or greater. An additional \$100,000 has now been committed by Palmetto College leadership to be applied based on the recommendations of the Salary Study Committee for FY21-22. Current calculations for 2021-22 using the same methods as in 2018-19 have resulted in 73 individuals (37 faculty and 36 staff) identified for a \$500 or greater salary increase. Processing of the increases will occur over the summer, and they will be effective at the beginning of the new academic year.

Also, in addition to the \$200,000 in increases applied, an analysis of FY14 to FY21 salary budgets for the four regional Palmetto College campuses, Palmetto College Columbia, and Palmetto College Central indicate an increase in the overall salary budget from FY14 to FY21 of \$4,483,297, a cumulative 38 percent increase (or 4.8 percent per year) amid a four percent FTE decrease from 245 to 236 during the same period (or about -0.5 percent per year), denoting that a larger salary budget is being spent on fewer FTE.

The full Chancellor's Report to the Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate is available to view on the [faculty senate minutes and agenda website](#).

### Faculty Awards

Each spring our Palmetto College campuses' faculty select three of their own in recognition of their individual accomplishments in the areas teaching, service and scholarship ([page 16](#)).

Congratulations to Francis Burns, assistant professor of chemistry at USC Salkehatchie, as the recipient of the John J. Duffy Excellence in Teaching Award

for Palmetto College Campuses; Wei-Kai Bryan Lai, professor of mathematics at USC Salkehatchie, is the recipient of the Chris P. Plyler Excellence in Service Award for Palmetto College Campuses; and Andrew Kunka, professor English at USC Sumter, is the recipient of the Denise R. Shaw Excellence in Scholarship Award for Palmetto College Campuses.

Lai also has the unique distinction of being the first Palmetto College campuses faculty member to have earned all three Palmetto College Excellence Awards.

Congratulations to the trio, as well as to the Distinguished Teachers of the Year from our respective regional Palmetto College campuses ([page 17](#)).

### New Campus Dean

Finally, I would like to offer congratulations to Dr. April Cone as new USC Salkehatchie campus dean ([page 27](#)).

Cone is no stranger to the Salkehatchie region or the University of South Carolina System. She has served as a registered nurse in Allendale, S.C., for the past 21 years. And, for more than a decade, she served as nursing program academic program manager for USC Salkehatchie and managed the campus' nursing program partnership with the UofSC Columbia College of Nursing and the USC Beaufort Department of Nursing. She has also served as a clinical assistant professor for both institutions.

Her accomplishments at USC Salkehatchie include creation of the campuses' first-ever, high-fidelity clinical nursing simulation lab, collaboration with high-level administrators at multiple UofSC System institutions to facilitate the successful BSN program partnership transition from Columbia to Beaufort, professional publications and scholarship.

Again, many thanks to our Palmetto College faculty and staff for their continued pursuit of excellence and the resulting accomplishments that would not have been possible without their dedicated efforts this decade, this year, this semester and every day. Enjoy the summer!

### Forever to Thee!



CHANCELLOR SUSAN A. ELKINS

# USC Palmetto College begins tenth year of service, success

**T**his past April 18, the University of South Carolina Palmetto College officially began its tenth year of service and success.

Nine years ago, USC Aiken, USC Beaufort, UofSC Columbia and USC Upstate united academic resources to bring online program offerings to all South Carolinians through Palmetto College Online. And USC Lancaster, USC Salkehatchie, USC Sumter, USC Union and Palmetto College Columbia (then Extended University) combined their efforts and faculty to create the foundation of USC Palmetto College. With the vision of President Harris Pastides and President-Elect Michael Amiridis (in his prior role as provost), the approval of the UofSC board of Trustees and the S.C. Commission on Higher Education and the support of the state legislature, the promise of an affordable, accessible and flexible higher education for all South Carolinians became a reality.

Palmetto College faculty and staff serve students and local communities from regional Palmetto College campuses and locations in Allendale, Columbia, Fort Jackson, Indian land, Lancaster, Laurens, Lexington, Shaw Air Force Base, Sumter, Union or Walterboro.

Launched in 2013, Palmetto College is more than the online education that many are familiar with. Palmetto College is a “system within a system” at the University of South Carolina.

Regional Palmetto College campuses

– USC Lancaster, USC Salkehatchie, USC Sumter and USC Union – as well as Palmetto College Columbia provide higher education and social mobility to communities across South Carolina.

“At a time when some question the value of a college degree, it is more evident than ever that education enables upward mobility and expands opportunity,” said USC Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins.

Within their communities, the regional Palmetto College campuses introduce the college experience to sixth through eighth graders and their families through various summer camps and the University of Possibilities enrichment program.

The early college and dual credit programs at the regional Palmetto College campuses offer students the opportunity to complete an associate of arts or associate of science degree while still in high school.

The new Palmetto College iCarolina Labs on at the regional Palmetto College campuses provide free broadband access to the surrounding local communities of USC Union, USC Lancaster and USC

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Traditionally, tenth anniversaries are marked by gifts of tin or aluminum symbolizing strength, resilience and longevity. At a spring 2022 donor recognition event for Palmetto College supporters, University of South Carolina President Harris Pastides and First Lady Patricia Moore-Pastides were presented with a metal palmetto tree sculpture in honor of their strong support of Palmetto College in its first decade of service and success. The tree was crafted by internationally acclaimed sculptor [Bob Doster](#).







*University of South Carolina President-Elect Michael Amiridis and incoming First Lady Ero Aggelopoulou-Amiridis have an established relationship with and extensive knowledge of Palmetto College. During his tenure as UofSC executive vice president and provost, his initial leadership and work to launch the innovative, system model provided a strong foundation for Palmetto College. His term as the 30th university president with First Lady Amiridis at his side begins July 1, 2022. We welcome the Amiridis family back home! Learn more about our new presidential family on the [UofSC website](#).*

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Sumter. Additional Apple labs located in the Allendale and Walterboro communities served by USC Salkehatchie will open in June 2022.

The Palmetto Pathway residential bridge transfer program allows Palmetto College students through Palmetto College Columbia to access the “Carolina Experience” from start to finish from the UofSC Columbia campus.

Thanks to the Palmetto Pathway program students have access to dedicated faculty and academic support. Students can also earn 30 credit hours that can transfer directly to four-year University of South Carolina System institutions.

Similarly, the USC Aiken Pacer Pathway program serves USC Union students. The USC Beaufort Sand Shark Scholars program serves USC Salkehatchie students.

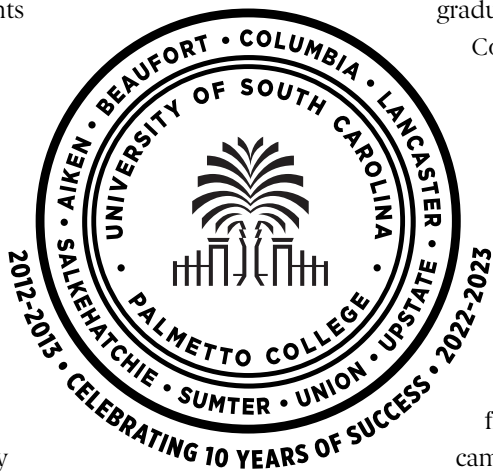
Beyond this campus-based introduction to the UofSC

System, prospective students may also earn an associate degree completely online from a regional Palmetto College campus.

Since 2013, more than 6,000 students have graduated with degrees from Palmetto College and Palmetto College Online.

This includes over 3,600 graduates from regional Palmetto College campuses – USC Lancaster, USC Salkehatchie, USC Sumter and USC Union – and over 2,500 graduates from Palmetto College Online partner institutions at USC Aiken, USC Beaufort, UofSC Columbia and USC Upstate.

The graduates and transfer students from regional Palmetto College campuses go on to great success completing bachelor's degrees (and beyond) at four-year UofSC System institutions and other higher education institutions. And many regional Palmetto College campus graduates elect to complete their bachelor's degrees from





**“At a time when some question the value of a college degree, it is more evident than ever that education enables upward mobility and expands opportunity.”**

**– USC Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins**

four-year UofSC System institutions through Palmetto College Online.

Palmetto College 2+2 degree completion pathways offer the most affordable route to a UofSC degree with tuition of \$298 per credit hour for regional Palmetto College campuses and \$433 per credit hour for Palmetto College Online bachelor's degree completion programs.

Palmetto College Online launched in 2013 with seven online bachelor's degree programs and has since expanded to 24 degree programs and concentrations in partnership with the Aiken, Beaufort, Columbia and Upstate campuses.

From UofSC Columbia, prospective online Palmetto College students are able to finish degrees in elementary education, liberal studies and organizational leadership.

In 2013, Palmetto College introduced prospective students to USC Aiken online degrees in business administration (management). Today, Palmetto College Online degree offerings from USC Aiken have expanded to include business administration (accounting), computer science (cybersecurity), communication, emerging media, psychology (B.S.) and special education.

In 2013, Palmetto College introduced prospective students to USC Beaufort online degrees in human services. Today, Palmetto College Online degree offerings from USC Beaufort have expanded to include hospitality management, psychology (B.A.), public health (B.A. and B.S.) and sociology.

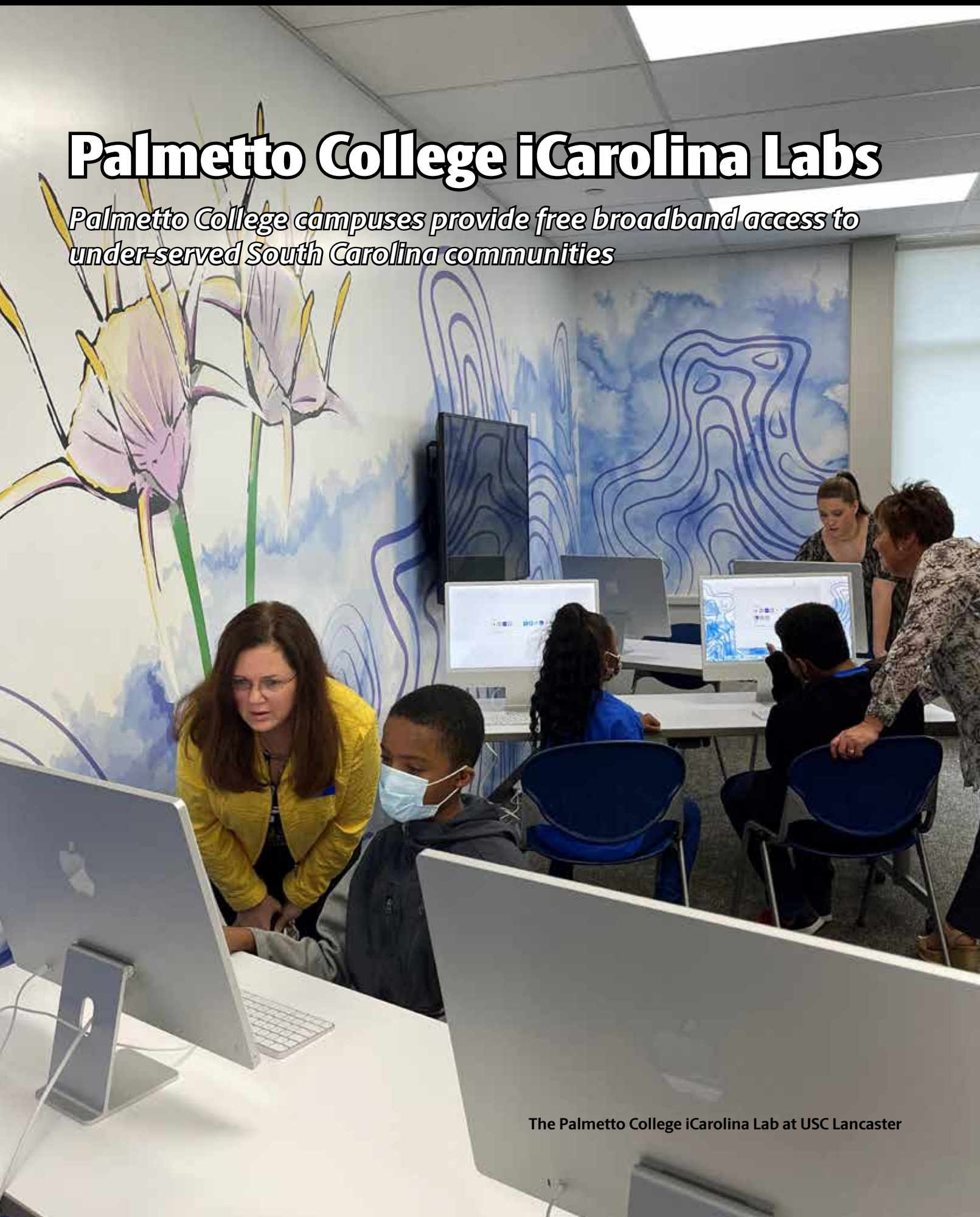
In 2013, Palmetto College introduced prospective students to USC Upstate online degrees in criminal justice and nursing (RN-BSN). Today, Palmetto College Online degree offerings from USC Upstate have expanded to include health informatics, information management and systems, engineering technology management, communications (public relations), criminal justice (crime analysis) and English.

Now entering its tenth year of service, Palmetto College can and will continue to fulfill its mission to its students and to the local communities served by the regional Palmetto College campuses, Palmetto College Columbia and Palmetto College Online.



# Palmetto College iCarolina Labs

*Palmetto College campuses provide free broadband access to under-served South Carolina communities*



The Palmetto College iCarolina Lab at USC Lancaster



According to 2019 data from the U.S. 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” find themselves at a technological disadvantage.

Thanks to a \$6 million grant from South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster, the University of South Carolina’s regional Palmetto College campuses and Benedict College will be able to bridge the gap in providing access at designated locations within the state’s broadband deserts.

“I am pleased that these labs are coming online at a time when basic access to broadband internet plays an essential role in increasing opportunities for our rural students and communities,” said Governor Henry McMaster.

“With more labs in the network opening in the coming months, we’re placing resources in the hands of our communities and people, allowing them to participate in our state’s growing economy.”

In March 2021, Governor 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, will establish eight Apple computer labs statewide. The network will include hubs in Columbia’s Bull Street District and at Benedict College, along with satellite labs at six USC Palmetto College regional campus locations. The

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**The Palmetto College iCarolina Lab at USC Sumter**



**The Palmetto College iCarolina Lab at USC Union**



The Palmetto College iCarolina Lab at USC Union opened on Feb. 25, 2022, and is located in the Union County Carnegie Library.



The Palmetto College iCarolina Lab at USC Lancaster opened on April 7, 2022, and is located in room 102 of the James Bradley Arts and Sciences Building.



The Palmetto College iCarolina Lab at USC Sumter opened on May 10, 2022, and is located on the second floor of Anderson Library.





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regional Palmetto College campuses are all located 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 delighted to open Palmetto College iCarolina Learning Labs in campus locations across South Carolina," said Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins.

"This technology 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. Thank you to Governor McMaster for his leadership

and vision to create this tremendous opportunity for our communities."

The labs have been strategically located for use by USC Palmetto College regional campuses, local school districts, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), the South Carolina Technical College System and citizens in the community.

Each site will provide 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 leading many efforts to educate and train the workforce of the future," said Bill Kirkland, executive director of the

UofSC Office of Economic Engagement.

"In the modern economy, we know that the state needs more highly skilled workers in specialized fields than ever before. Initiatives like the iCarolina network will help fill the gap between K-12, two-year colleges, and higher education for the benefit of our entire statewide community."

As of May 10, 2022, Palmetto College iCarolina Labs have opened in Union, Lancaster and Sumter to meet this need. These three labs are among eight labs opening throughout South Carolina and will provide underserved communities with access to high-speed broadband internet.

## 2021-22 Palmetto College Excellence Awards honor individual faculty teaching, service and scholarship

Each Spring, the Palmetto College Campuses 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 and out of the classroom. The 2021-22 Duffy Teaching Award was presented to **Francis Burns**, assistant professor of chemistry at USC Salkehatchie.

Burns' demonstration of outstanding teaching is reflected in his chemistry course designs which utilize technology to better engage students, allowing them to actively participate in their learning. He has explored various teaching technologies through online training and workshops and uses a variety of pedagogical methods.

He has shared his knowledge with colleagues on his campus, in the system and in his profession through pedagogical presentations. Burns has also published his pedagogical work in a 2021 Research in Chemical Education book chapter titled, "Closing the Circle in Student Assessment and Learning."

Burns received a RISE grant to fund a project titled, "Factors Affecting Student Retention and Success in the USC Salkehatchie USC Rural Nursing Initiative." The results of that study fueled a follow-up study to investigate qualitative factors that affect student success.

Together with the Western Carolina Higher Education Commission, the Palmetto College development office and Salkehatchie colleagues, Burns received a large USDA Rural Development grant for \$150,000. The funds will be used to purchase laboratory equipment to improve chemistry education at USC Salkehatchie and to provide continuing

education courses for law enforcement in the area.

Burns assesses student learning through a variety of methods including pre- and post-tests. His students truly benefit from his methods. In surveys, one student wrote of Burns, "My professor went above and beyond to encourage my learning experience."

Through his excellence in teaching, he has empowered students and improved their success. In a letter recommending Burns for the award, one of his students shared, "I can truly tell you that [he] is not only passionate about chemistry, but also cares for his students' success."



The **Chris P. Plyler Excellence in Service Award for Palmetto College Campuses** is presented to a faculty member who personifies excellence in service to the campus, university, community and profession. The award was first given in 2015. The 2021-2022 Plyler Service Award was presented to **Wei-Kai Bryan Lai**, professor of mathematics at USC

Salkehatchie.

Lai is heavily involved in service to USC Salkehatchie, the University of South Carolina System, his community and his profession.

His contributions to USC Salkehatchie include searches for the campus dean, the associate dean and the associate dean. Lai has also served as chair of the math and sciences division, chair of the tenure and promotion committee, chair of the dean's advisory council, chair of the globalization committee and chair of the mathematics award committee.

He has also served as compiler of his campus's tenure and promotion course evaluation data, coordinator of the Pi Day event and faculty adviser to the USC Salkehatchie International Student Organization. As part of that organization, Lai helps international students to file taxes



and apply for driver's licenses, gives students rides and even provides meals to students in need.

At the University of South Carolina System level, Lai has served on the UofSC Columbia Faculty Senate, as well as the Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate. He has served as a reviewer for the Magellan Scholar, RISE programs and for the Carolina Core ARP assessment committee. He has also presented at Tenure and Promotion workshops.

Lai's service extends throughout the community. He has led workshops and activities for local high school teachers and has volunteered with charity events through local churches. He has also served as treasurer for the Lowcountry International Society and sings with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra Chorus where he is in the bass section.

In service to his profession, Lai currently serves as vice chair for two-year colleges at the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) Southeastern Section and serves as representative at-large for interests of faculty at two-year colleges for MAA.

Lai previously received the 2012-13 John J. Duffy Excellence in Teaching Award for Palmetto College Campuses and the 2018-19 Denise R. Shaw Excellence in Scholarship Award for Palmetto College Campuses.



The **Denise R. Shaw Excellence in Scholarship Award for Palmetto College Campuses**, first given in 2017, is presented to a faculty member who exhibits outstanding scholarship. The 2021-2022 Shaw Scholarship Award was presented to **Andy Kunka**, professor of English at USC Sumter.

Kunka, an internationally recognized comics scholar, has demonstrated a record of outstanding scholarship.

In 2021, he published a book with Rutgers University Press, *The Life and Comics of Howard Cruse: Taking Risks in the Service of Truth*, and another book proposal has been accepted by Routledge with co-author Rachel R. Miller titled *Introduction to American Comics*.

In addition to his books, Kunka has published seven peer-review essays and book chapters including a 2021 chapter in *The Other 1980s: Reframing Comics' Crucial Decade* titled "Lords, Masters, Aces and Knights: Doug Moench and the Advancement of Comics in the 1980s," a 2020 chapter in *The Oxford Handbook of Comic Studies* titled "Adaptation and Racial Representation in Dell/Gold Key Movie and TV Tie-ins" and a 2018 chapter in *The Cambridge History of the Graphic Novel* titled "Crime Genre Fiction in the Graphic Novel."

Kunka has also published interviews and presented his scholarly work at several literature and comics studies conferences over the past few years.

He serves as associate editor for *INKS: The Journal of the Comics Studies Society*, serves on the editorial board for *The Journal of Graphic Novels and Comics*, and serves on the executive boards for the Comics Studies Society and the International Comic Arts Forum.

Kunka's work has been cited more than 80 times during the past three years, and he has been hailed by reviewers as "both deeply engaging and pleasurable to read."

In addition, he has worked closely with the University of South Carolina's Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library to develop their holdings in comics studies.

## USC Regional Palmetto College Campuses announce Teacher of the Year Awards



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

**Kim Covington**  
Senior Instructor of English



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

**Sarah Miller**  
Professor of History

*\*This is the sixth time that she has received this honor.*



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

**David Decker**  
Associate Professor of  
History



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

**Avery M. Fouts**  
Associate Professor of  
Philosophy and Religious  
Studies

# Palmetto College faculty researchers awarded 2022 RISE grants

The Research Initiative for Summer Engagement (RISE) Grant was launched in 2012 to support summer research for faculty members at University of South Carolina System campuses.

This program employs a competitive application process to provide money for summer salary, research supplies, travel related to research and undergraduate student support to bolster scholarship throughout the UofSC System.

Along with helping faculty develop research programs, RISE also aims to equip regional and senior campuses to better serve their local communities as well as to support the larger university mission.

Ten Palmetto College faculty have been awarded RISE grants to support their summer research this year, including:



**Marybeth Berry**  
Associate  
Professor of  
Theatre and  
Speech  
USC Lancaster

*The deconstruction  
of Athol Fugard's*

*"The Island"*



**Kristina Grob**  
Assistant Professor  
of Philosophy  
USC Sumter

*Connecting  
appreciative advising  
to the academic  
disciplines*



**Emily Schafer**  
Assistant Professor  
of Psychology  
USC Union

*Adverse childhood  
experiences and the  
mental health of  
college students on*

*two-year campuses*



**David Dangerfield**  
Assistant Professor  
of History  
USC Salkehatchie

*Shades of gray:  
Non-white  
Confederate  
soldiers, race,*

*and citizenship in the South Carolina  
Lowcountry*



**Bettie Obi-Johnson**  
Professor of  
Chemistry  
USC Lancaster

*Optimization  
of SPME arrow  
sampling for in-situ  
floral scent analysis*



**Peter Seipel**  
Assistant Professor  
of Philosophy  
USC Lancaster

*Effective altruism:  
What do we owe  
the global poor?*



**Wanda Little  
Fenimore**  
Assistant Professor  
of Speech  
Communications  
USC Sumter

*It's a great day in  
South Carolina:  
Nikki Haley's*

*lessons from the New South*



**Damien Picariello**  
Assistant Professor  
of Political Science  
USC Sumter

*A fistful of politics  
(RISE Palmetto  
College Campuses)*



**Nahid Swails**  
Assistant Professor  
of Physics  
USC Lancaster

*A unique approach  
towards joining  
process for shape  
memory alloys*



**Vincent Frontero**  
Instructor of  
English  
USC Sumter

*English translation  
of Maria Luisa  
Spaziani's  
Pallottoliere celeste*

*(Celestial Abacus): Filling a gap in 20th  
and 21st century feminist poetry*



**Melissa Rack**  
Assistant Professor  
of English  
USC Salkehatchie

*The Protestant  
legacy of Paulus  
Melissus: A unique  
copy of Melissa*

*Schediasmata poetica; se-condo edita  
multo autiora (1586) at the Biblioteca  
Nazionale di Napoli*



# Faculty and Staff Notes



**Shemsi Alhaddad**, associate professor of mathematics and statistics at USC Lancaster, completed certification for [Teaching Towards Inclusive](#)

[Excellence](#) through the UofSC Columbia Center for Teaching Excellence.



**Mary Ellen Bellanca**, professor of English at USC Sumter, completed a peer review of "Dorothy Wordsworth's Lake District," a

book-length digital edition published on [Romantic Circles](#), a scholarly online resource for studies in the Romantic era.



**Marybeth Berry**, associate professor of theatre and speech at USC Lancaster, will be presenting her RISE grant-funded performance of "[On the Spectrum](#),"

directed by **Tyrie Rowell**, USCL student services program coordinator, at the San Diego International Fringe Festival in

June 2022.



**Jacob Bratcher**, academic adviser for the Liberal Studies and Organizational Leadership programs and adjunct instructor of history in

Palmetto College Columbia, presented "Inspired in the Old English: How South Carolina Gave Rise to the King James Version-Only Movement" at the 2021 meeting of the South Carolina Historical Association.



**Fernanda Burke**, associate professor of biology and chemistry at USC Lancaster, has been selected as a recipient of the [2022 Distinguished](#)

[Research Service Award](#). The Office of the Vice President for Research created the Distinguished Research Service Award to recognize UofSC faculty members who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to our internal research programs.



**Courtney Catledge**, director of the USC Lancaster BSN Collaborative Program and nursing instructor, **Ann Scott**, clinical

assistant professor of nursing at USC Lancaster, **Robin Dawson**, and **Leigh Pate**, clinical assistant professors in the in the BSN nursing programs at USC Lancaster and UofSC Columbia, have been selected to present a podium presentation entitled

"Hepatitis B Immunity Among Undergraduate Nursing Students: Documentation and Alignment with Best Practices" at the 33rd Annual Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Research Congress, in

Scotland, in July 2022.



**Allan Charles**, professor emeritus of history at USC Union, was elected president of Union County Historical Society in January 2022.

He also delivered

a speech on the Battle of Blackstock, which occurred Nov. 20, 1780, and was the largest battle ever fought in what is now Union County to the society's entire membership in March 2022.



**Sher Chettri**, assistant professor of mathematics at USC Sumter, is the 2021-22 recipient of the Jean-Luc Grosso Award for Outstanding Faculty Scholarship.

A poster presentation by his undergraduate students (Christian Sterner and Kaitlin Kiser), "Comparing Multiple Proportions Using Marascuilo Method (An analytical study of COVID-19 data in three different care facilities)," was presented at the 18th Annual S.C. Upstate Research Symposium in April 2022. He also served as a judge for students' oral presentations at the symposium.

He served as a judge for students' poster presentations at 66th Annual UofSC Science and Engineering Fair in March 2022.

Chettri presented a paper, titled "[Extended Lomax Distribution with an Application to Cancer Patient Data](#)," at the Future of Information and Communication Conference (FICC) in March 2022. He also chaired a special virtual roundtable session on "Compounding Probability Distributions: A Recent Trend" at the FICC conference.

He served as an invited speaker for the virtual Spring 2022 Seminar Series at Alabama State University in March 2022. He presented a paper, titled "[A comparative study of a partially flipped model to traditional and fully online introductory Statistics course](#)."

# Faculty and Staff Notes



**Robert Costello**, distinguished professor emeritus of chemistry at USC Sumter, had an article reviewed and accepted for publication by *Florida*

*Anthropologist*. The article is titled "Application of Methods for Cleaning Surface Stains on Lithic Artifacts Recovered from Florida Rivers."



**Ron Cox**, dean of Palmetto College Columbia and associate dean for equity, diversity and inclusion for USC Palmetto College, has been elected to serve

on the executive committee of the University of South Carolina's chapter, the Alpha of South Carolina, of Phi Beta Kappa for 2022-2023.



**Stephen Criswell**, professor of English and director of Native American studies at USC Lancaster, **Chris Judge**, assistant director of Native

American studies at USC Lancaster, and the Native American Studies Center staff secured a [\\$25,000 grant from the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation](#) for oral history work regarding the Native Americans in the Lowcountry.



**Susan Cruise**, associate professor of sociology at USC Lancaster, and her student, freshman Rio Shadow, have been awarded \$1,000 funding

for their project "Addressing Food Insecurity Among Students at the University of South Carolina Lancaster" by the Mini-Grant Review Committee at UofSC Columbia.



**David Dangerfield**, assistant professor of history at USC Salkehatchie, is being consulted by the PBS television program "[Finding](#)

[your Roots with Henry Louis Gates Jr.](#)," providing historical context for a celebrity guest's ancestors and their experiences. His contributions will be credited on an episode that should air during Fall 2022 or Spring 2023.

He also earned the 2022 USC Salkehatchie Faculty Organization Award for his work in the area of service.

Among his other accomplishments, Dangerfield gave a public lecture, titled "[Liberty and its Limits: Free People of Color, The American Revolution, and South Carolina](#)," to The Rebecca Motte Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Charleston, S.C., in March 2022.



**Jason Darby**, director of marketing and communications for USC Palmetto College, participated in a January 2022 virtual roundtable

discussion in support of [Invisible No More: The African American Experience at the University of South Carolina](#); he co-authored a chapter on UofSC's first Black faculty member, Richard T. Greener (1873-1877).

He also participated in a panel discussion at the inaugural UofSC Inclusive Leadership Professional Symposium in April 2022.

Darby completed the 2021-22 cohort of the UofSC Emerging Leaders Program in April.



**Elizabeth Easley**, associate professor of exercise science at USC Lancaster, and **Sarah Sellhorst**, chair of the Math, Science, Nursing and Public Health Division and professor of exercise science at USC Lancaster, received the proof of their contribution to The Cambridge Handbook



of Undergraduate Research: Undergraduate Research in the Exercise Science Discipline."



**Cheryl Lynn Edwards**, nursing director at USC Union, has been inducted into Alpha Sigma Lambda, in recognition of her service and dedication to nontraditional student success at Palmetto College.



**Julia Elliott**, professor of English and women & gender studies in Palmetto College Columbia published a short story,

"Flying," in [Conjunctions 78: Fear Itself](#) (Spring 2022). She was also recently interviewed for the Columbia Museum of Art Binder Podcast ([Episode 8: Strangest Things](#)).





**Wanda Little Fenimore**, assistant professor of speech communications at USC Sumter, published “Freedom is Everybody’s Job”:

Elizabeth Waring’s Rhetorical Strategies to Dismantle Jim Crow,” in [Rhetoric & Public Affairs \(Winter 2021\)](#).

At the Southern States Communication Association conference held in Greenville in April 2022, she participated in two round table discussions: “Characters and Caricatures: The Fiery Rhetoric of South Carolina Governors” and “Opera in Greenville: 75th anniversary of the Lynching of Willie Earle.” On the panel featuring radical woman, she presented “The Resilience of Memory: Nikki Haley’s Appeals to Nostalgia.” In addition, she presented “The Need for Changing: John H. McCray’s Resilient Resistance to White Supremacy” on the Vice President Spotlight Panel, “Rhetorics of Resilience and Resistance in South Carolina’s Civil Rights Struggle.”



**Vincent Frontero**, instructor of English at USC Sumter, had two poems – “The Windows in My New Apartment Aren’t Safety Glass” and “Today

is the Festa di Libertà” – accepted for publication in *The Cape Rock*, (Spring 2022).

His translations of “Giochi col Tempo,” “Versi Materni” and “Chiusa” by Maria Luisa Spaziani have been accepted for publication in [Red Rock Review](#) (Spring 2022).

Frontero’s poem “The Torment of Boundaries” has been accepted for publication in *The Tusculum Review*, (Fall 2022).



**Annette Golonka**, professor of biology at USC Lancaster, and **Bettie Obi-Johnson**, professor of chemistry at USC Lancaster, along with students Khalisha Emmanuel, Jeffshan Ponnarasu, and Joseph Pryor, recently had an article published in the [Journal of Chemical Education](#).



[Journal of Chemical Education](#).



**Kristina Grob**, assistant professor of philosophy at USC Sumter, presented a paper, titled “Beyond ‘War’: A Binary-Resistant Reading of the Feminist ‘Sex Wars’,” at the Southeastern Women’s Studies Association in March 2022.

She also presented a paper, titled “The Master’s Tools Revisited: Implicit Gender Essentialisms in Second Wave Beauvoir Scholarship,” at the Joint Meeting of the South Carolina Society for Philosophy and North Carolina Philosophical Society in March 2022.

Grob presented a revised version of the paper at the 72nd Annual Meeting of the New Mexico-Texas Philosophical Society in April 2022. Her commentary on Alina Ahmed’s presentation, “Decentering Power: Arguing for a Mandatory Undergraduate Course that Teaches Anti-Oppressive Allyship,” was presented at the same meeting.

Her refereed proposal, titled “Academic Redlining and Appreciative Education: What Can We Do About Persistently White Classes?”, was accepted to the 2022 Workshop-Conference of the American Association of Philosophy Teachers to be held in July 2022.

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**Lisa Hammond**, professor of English at USC Lancaster and director of faculty affairs at UofSC Columbia, was awarded a two-week residency

in poetry in February by the Hambidge Center for Creative Arts and Sciences in the mountains of north Georgia.

In addition, her poetry collection [Lily Watch](#) was published in November 2021 by Seven Kitchen Press.



**David Hatch**, associate professor of English at USC Salkehatchie, completed the UofSC Center for Teaching Excellence Online Teaching

Certificate.

He has also completed a second master’s degree, in higher education administration and student affairs (HESA), from the University of South Carolina.



**Mary Hjelm**, professor of English in Palmetto College Columbia, wrote a [review of Emma Smith’s This is Shakespeare](#) that was recently

published in *Early Modern Literary Studies*, an international journal covering the study of 16th and 17th century English literature and literary culture.



**Laura Humphrey**, Palmetto Pathway academic program director in Palmetto College Columbia, has been inducted into Alpha Sigma Lambda,

in recognition of her service and dedication to nontraditional student success at Palmetto College.

# Faculty and Staff Notes



**Kirsten Iden**, assistant professor of English at USC Salkehatchie, has been inducted into Alpha Sigma Lambda, in recognition of her service and dedication to nontraditional student success at Palmetto College.



**Randy Ivey**, senior instructor of English at USC Union, had a short story, "[The Gift of Gab](#)," published in the winter issue of the prestigious literary journal

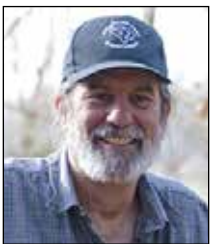
*Still: The Journal*.

In April 2022, his poem "May Day Haiku" was recognized by the Poetry Society of South Carolina.



**Austen Jenkins**, senior instructor of biology at USC Sumter, was selected to lead the summer nature trips for the SC ETV Endowment. [This summer's trip](#)

[will be to the Canadian Rockies](#).



**Chris Judge**, assistant director of Native American studies at USC Lancaster, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the

[USC Educational Foundation](#). He has also been elected Secretary of the newly formed [Archaeological Institute of the Pee Dee](#).



**Dan Kiernan**, instructor of biology at USC Sumter, has had a book chapter, titled "Using humorous video clips to introduce biology topics,"

published in a new book, [Teach Biology with a Sense of Humor: Why \(and How to\) Be a Funnier and More Effective Biology Teacher and Laugh All the Way to Your Classroom?](#)



**Eran Kilpatrick**, professor of biology at USC Salkehatchie, worked to get the USC Salkehatchie Herbarium collection (images and records)

published in the [Global Biodiversity Information Facility](#) (GBIF) in March 2022. The 1000-plus specimen images and associated record details in GBIF are available to an international audience. Since publishing, the publicity has already resulted in specimen requests from scientists at the University of Montreal and SUNY Syracuse. In fact, a group of researchers from the University of Montreal have planned a sampling trip to the Salkehatchie region in June. Kilpatrick is currently selecting sites with their focal species (three sedge species) and will be guiding them to the sites this summer.



**Kathleen Klik**, assistant professor of psychology at USC Sumter, co-authored an article, "[Disciplinary differences in the study of the](#)

[relationship between social variables and mental health: A systematic mapping review](#)," that has been accepted for publication in *Health: An Interdisciplinary Journal for the Social Study of Health, Illness and Medicine*.



**Andrew J. Kunka**, professor of English at USC Sumter, co-authored "[Reading Between the Lines: The Three Lives of Will Eisner](#)," for Access,

the Richland County Public Library magazine. The article accompanies an exhibit of Will Eisner's art at the library.

He also appeared on the Queer in the South podcast to discuss his new book, [The Life and Comics of Howard Cruse: Taking Risks in the Service of Truth](#).



**Wei-Kai Bryan Lai**, professor of mathematics at USC Salkehatchie, had a peer-reviewed paper – "[An Alternative Proof for an Inequality with](#)

[Cyclic Fractions](#)" – published in the *International Journal of Mathematics and its Application*.

At the [Mathematical Association of America Southeastern Section](#) Meeting at Berry College (Georgia) in March 2022, Lai and the Math Treasure Hunt Team designed and hosted an in-person Math Treasure Hunt in which 50-plus students participated. He also gave a 20-minute talk, with two other team members, about how this activity started years ago and has evolved over time. At the same meeting, Lai's independent study student Vigneswaran Chinnasami gave a presentation about their research project.



**Nick Lawrence**, associate professor of English at USC Lancaster, served as content editor for a [special double issue of South Central Review](#), which was

themed by the question "What's Your Favorite Novel?" He also contributed the issue's introduction and an interview with Catie Disabato.





**Patrick Lawrence**, director of the academic success center and associate professor of English at USC Lancaster, published an op-ed in the Jan.

30 edition of *The State* newspaper (Columbia, S.C.) on free speech, titled "[Move to ban The 1619 Project from SC classrooms will only harm future generations.](#)" That led to an invitation to speak to a community interest group of about 30-40 people in Columbia (via Zoom) about free speech issues In February 2022.

His new book, *Obscene Gestures: Counter-Narratives of Sex and Race in the Twentieth Century* (Fordham University Press) will be published this summer.



**Stephen Lowe**, professor of history at USC Union and director of the liberal studies and organizational leadership at Palmetto College

Columbia, has won the George C. Rogers Jr. Award for his 2021 book, *The Slow Undoing: The Federal Courts and the Long Struggle for Civil Rights in South Carolina*. The award is presented annually by the South Carolina Historical Association to the author of the best book of South Carolina history published during the previous year.



**Randy Lowell**, campus dean of USC Union, co-presented a poster, titled "Meditation as a Means to Reduction of Implicit Racial Bias," at the

annual meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association, Hilton Head, S.C., In March 2022.

He also served as a reviewer of research abstract submissions for the Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA) Conference.



**Steve Lownes**, assistant professor of world languages at USC Union and campus coordinator for the Center for Integrative

and Experiential Learning, presented "Where Theory Meets Practice: Paulo Freire's *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* as Primer for Language Learning and Service-Learning" at the International Academic Forum (IAFOR) International Conference on Education, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, in January 2022.



In addition, Lownes, alongside **Madjoulaine Aziz**, interm associate dean of academic affairs and associate professor of sociology at USC Union, and undergraduate

student researcher Caden Jackson presented their poster, "Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding: Do Core Classes Work?" via a virtual poster session for the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AACU) 2022 Diversity, Equity, and Student Success Conference.



**Justin K. Mogiliski**, assistant professor of psychology at USC Salkehatchie, has been named a 2022 Breakthrough Star by the UofSC

Office of the Vice President of Research.

He also gave an invited talk at Durham University in Durham, U.K., in January 2022 to the psychology department's Quantitative Social Psychology Research Group titled "Multi-partner relationship maintenance: Using evolutionary theory to improve non-monogamous relationship outcomes."

Mogilski gave a talk, titled "Development and validation of the multi-partner relationship maintenance scale in an international sample," at

the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Sexuality Pre-conference in San Francisco in February 2022.



**Lee G. Morris**, assistant professor of biology at USC Union, and student Travis Wendel presented "Watch out for that tree! A Study on Plant

Blindness" at the CEPO (Committee on Equality on Professional Opportunity) section of the Annual Southeastern Psychological Association in Hilton Head March 26.

Wendel and Morris submitted an abstract, "Survey of Crayfish Species in Union County, S.C.: Emphasis on Documenting the Spread of Invasive Crayfish Species," which was presented at Discover UofSC in April 2022.

Student Blaine Newton and Morris submitted an abstract, "Mysteries in The Lab: Examination of Cross Hair Sections of a Shrunken Head (Tsantsa)," which was presented at Discover UofSC.

Morris had an abstract "Biases towards and against specific groups of organisms in more than 45 years of biodiversity surveys in South Carolina" accepted for the Citizen Science Association's 2022 C\*Sci 2022 Virtual Conference in May.



**Lokendra Paudel**, assistant professor of mathematics at USC Salkehatchie co-authored a published essay, "[A note on maximal non-Manis extensions](#),"

in *Beiträge zur Algebra und Geometrie / Contributions to Algebra and Geometry*, 2022.

He also gave a conference presentation, titled "On Maximal non-Manis Extensions" at the Southern Regional Algebra Conference in Milledgeville, Ga., in March 2022.

# Faculty and Staff Notes



**John Peek**, senior instructor of criminal justice at USC Salkehatchie, was selected to officiate the 5A state final football game in December 2021 between

Gaffney and Dutch Fork high schools. This was the 12th state high school championship football game that he has officiated in a 39-year football officiating career.



**Damien Picariello**, assistant professor of political science at USC Sumter, was interviewed in *The Item* (Sumter, S.C.) newspaper for an article, "[USC Sumter professor](#)

[weighs in on Russian violence, assures residents should not worry about war domestically](#)," in the March 2022.



**Andrew Pisano**, associate professor of English at USC Union, presented a conference paper, titled "Cuisine de Composition: Experiential Food Writing in the First

Year College Composition Classroom," at the Hawaii University International Conferences in Honolulu in January 2022.

He also presented a paper, titled "Narrative Reckoning: Jay Atkinson's Massacre on the Merrimack and the Critique of Anti-Indian Memorialization" at the The Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS) in New Orleans, La., in March 2022.



**Emily Schafer**, assistant professor of psychology at USC Union, was awarded the 2022 New Investigator Award for presentation of her research in

April 2022 as part of the [13th Annual James E. Clyburn Health Equity Lecture Series](#) at UofSC Columbia. This presentation was based on her recent publication in the *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*, entitled "[Perceived Discrimination in School: A Longitudinal Look at Expectations and Health](#)."

She has also been nominated for the Wayne Weitner Teaching Excellence Award from the Society for the Teaching of Psychology.

She presented a paper, titled "Examining the Impact of Trauma-Informed Care Training on Educators' Knowledge, Attitudes and Behavior: A Qualitative Study," at the 2022 Annual International Conference on Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Education at Hawaii University in Honolulu in January 2022.

Schafer presented a continuing education seminar, titled "The traumatic and ongoing legacy of slavery and racism," at the 2022 annual meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA) in Hilton Head, S.C., in March 2022.

She also had a poster presentation, titled "Adverse childhood experiences and mental health in college students on two-year campuses," accepted with two student mentees, from the PURE grant at the annual meeting of the American College Health Association, San Diego, Calif., in June 2022.



**Michael Sontagg**, campus dean of USC Sumter, lead a team that included **Adrienne Cataldo**, USC Sumter athletics director; Palmetto College Chancellor **Susan Elkins**; **Hendrikus van Bulck**, interim assistant dean for business and administrative management at USC Sumter; and **Kris Weissmann**, USC Sumter director of student life and esports head coach, for a presentation, titled "[Launching and Managing an eSports Program in Higher Education](#)," at the 77th Annual Society for the Advancement of Management (SAM) international business conference, held online between March 30 and April 2, 2022.



**Submit your own accomplishments for the faculty and staff notes section in the upcoming edition of this publication by Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2022.**





**Lauren Thomas**, adjunct professor of health promotion education and behavior at USC Lancaster, was awarded a BTC Rolling Grant

through the Center for Integrative and Experiential Learning this semester. This funding is being used to purchase motion-sensor cameras to assess visitor demographics and types of physical activity behaviors occurring at the Lindsay Pettus Greenway in Lancaster, S.C. Students taking HPEB 300 will be trained in how to utilize a direct observation instrument called SOPARNA, which assesses use of outdoor recreation settings. Results will be shared with the community leaders.



**Kevin Torres**, instructor of world languages at USC Union, presented "Medical Interpreting as a Profession" at Surrey Community

College in January 2022.

He also planned a virtual talk through the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum with Holocaust survivor Irene Fogel Weiss, which took place on the USC Union campus in January 2022.



**Elliot Vittes**, associate professor of political science in Palmetto College Columbia, presented the paper "O-Rings, Foam and American

Democracy" at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the New England Political Science Association.

He also served as part of a Founding Documents Brown bag presentation, "Finding Five Fabulous Federal Filings," with Woody Holton, professor of history at UofSC Columbia, on teaching the Federalist Papers as a component of a University of South Carolina course that is compliant with the new Reinforcing College Education on America's Constitutional Heritage (REACH) Act.

Vittes delivered a paper, titled "REACHing and Teaching: Mandated Curricular Content for University Students in South Carolina," at the 2022 meeting of the New England Political Science Association in Bretton Woods, N.H., in April.



**Bernard Washington**, regional Palmetto College coordinator at USC Sumter, has been inducted into Alpha Sigma Lambda,

in recognition of his service and dedication to nontraditional student success at Palmetto College.

## 2022 State of South Carolina Service Award Ceremony Honorees

These Palmetto College campuses' faculty and staff were recognized for their service to the State of South Carolina in an April 2022 ceremony. Ten-Year Service honorees were recognized online.



**Richard W. Van Hall**  
Professor

USC Lancaster

*50 Years of Service*



**Howard C. Kingkade**  
Professor

USC Lancaster

*20 Years of Service*



**Andrew J. Kunka**  
Department Chair and  
Professor  
USC Sumter

*20 Years of Service*



**Michele S. Lee**  
Director of Budget  
and Finance  
USC Union

*20 Years of Service*

## Career Transitions

### New Hires

**Keith Ballington**, Director of Operations, USC Union

**April Cone**, Campus Dean, USC Salkehatchie

**Katonya Crawford**, Palmetto College iCarolina Lab Coordinator, USC Lancaster

**Kelsie Decker**, Palmetto College iCarolina Lab Coordinator, USC Sumter

**John Michael Greer**, Palmetto College iCarolina Lab Coordinator, USC Union

**Lorraine Fleetwood**, Financial Aid Counselor, USC Sumter

**Alex Floyd**, Admissions Counselor & Recruiter, USC Sumter

**Barry Hinson**, Admissions Processor, USC Lancaster

**Amber Ivey**, Administrative Specialist, USC Union

**Nicholas Jeter**, IT Technician, USC Union

**Kyle Lawson**, Men's Basketball Coach, USC Salkehatchie

**Denise Mackey**, Admissions Processor, USC Lancaster

**Jean Nettles**, Human Resources Director, USC Salkehatchie

**Angelo Sciuilli**, Assistant Registrar, USC Lancaster

**Gloria Stover**, Admissions Assistant, USC Lancaster

**Gabriella Varnson**, Administrative Specialist, USC Sumter

**Roxanne Webster**, Custodial Staff, USC Lancaster

**Brandon J. Wright**, Assistant Dean of Student Success, USC Salkehatchie

### Retirees

**Lucille Green**, Building & Grounds Specialist, USC Sumter

**Julie Hadwin**, Director of Financial Aid, USC Salkehatchie

**Martha R. McKevlin**, Senior Instructor of Biology, USC Salkehatchie

## Spring investiture ceremonies held to formally install new USC Aiken, USC Upstate chancellors

This semester, investiture ceremonies were held for Bennie L. Harris and Dan Heimmermann as the fifth chancellors of USC Upstate and USC Aiken, respectively.



**USC Aiken  
Chancellor  
Dan**

**Heimmermann** previously served as provost and vice president for academic affairs

at The University of Texas Permian Basin (UT Permian Basin) 2014 to 2021. Prior to that, he served in the same capacity at Mississippi University for Women. His professional experience also includes positions as dean of the college of liberal arts at The University of Texas-Brownsville and chair of the department of history and political Science at The University of North Alabama. He has led USC Aiken since July 1, 2021. A native of Wisconsin, Heimmermann received undergraduate degrees in history and Spanish before earning Master of Arts and Ph.D. degrees in early-modern French history from Marquette University. His investiture ceremony was held on March 17.

Palmetto College has a strong relationship with USC Aiken. The institution currently offers the business management and elementary education degree programs on the USC Sumter campus and BSN nursing programs on both the USC Sumter and USC Union campuses. USC Union and USC Aiken also jointly offer the Pacer Pathway residential bridge program.

At the launch of Palmetto College Online in 2013, USC Aiken partnered with Palmetto College to offer a bachelor's degree completion program in business administration (management). Today, that partnership has grown to include six additional

bachelor's degree completion programs: applied computer science (cybersecurity); business administration (accounting); communication; emerging media; psychology (B.S.); and special education.



**USC Upstate  
Chancellor  
Bennie L. Harris** previously served as senior vice president for institutional advancement at

Morehouse School of Medicine from 2014 to 2021. Prior to that, he served in increasingly responsible positions at Washington State University, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, DePaul University and Lipscomb University. He has led USC Upstate since July 1, 2021. A native of the Mississippi Delta farming community of Deeson, Harris received a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial engineering from Mississippi State University, a Master of Business Administration in strategic marketing from Washington State University and a Ph.D. in strategic educational marketing from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. His investiture ceremony was held on April 15.

Palmetto College also enjoys a robust partnership with USC Upstate. At the 2013 launch of Palmetto College Online, two of the seven original online bachelor's degree completion program offerings – criminal justice and RN-BSN nursing – came from USC Upstate.

The partnership has grown from those two programs to include six additional bachelor's degree completion program offerings: communication; criminal justice (crime analysis); engineering technology management; English; health informatics; and information management and systems.



# Cone named campus dean of USC Salkehatchie

April Cone has been named campus dean of the University of South Carolina Salkehatchie. Her appointment was announced by USC Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins, who cites Cone's administrative leadership, her track record for training graduates who live and work in the Salkehatchie region, and her connection to the internal and external stakeholders that can benefit the campuses' continued growth, development and community engagement.

"USC Salkehatchie serves a vital role in providing affordable, accessible and flexible education to meet the needs of our students, their families and the surrounding region," Elkins said. "Dr. Cone is the right individual to lead the USC Salkehatchie campuses as we continue to address the educational needs of the people and the communities in the region."

Cone is no stranger to the Salkehatchie region or the University of South Carolina system. She has served as a registered nurse in Allendale, S.C., for 21 years. She served as nursing academic program manager for USC Salkehatchie and managed the campuses' nursing program partnerships with the UofSC Columbia College of Nursing and the USC Beaufort Department of Nursing for the past eight years. She has also served as a clinical assistant professor at both institutions.

"Having been a member of the Salkehatchie family for the past eleven-and-a-half years, I have seen first-hand the impact our small but mighty campus has made, and continues to make on students and their families, as well as faculty, staff and the community," Cone said. "I am honored, humbled and

excited to have the opportunity to lead USC Salkehatchie and continue to advance our mission of providing higher education and intellectual leadership for the Salkehatchie region and beyond."

Cone was recommended for the position by a 16-member search committee representing a cross section of stakeholders from USC Salkehatchie's five-county service area and led by John Catalano, associate provost for USC Palmetto College and interim campus dean of USC Salkehatchie.

"I am very pleased with the results of this search," Catalano said. "USC Salkehatchie will benefit from Dr. Cone's ability as a leader, a scholar, a fundraiser and her connections to the community. She was the ideal candidate and will be a successful dean."

Cone has led USC Salkehatchie's Rural Nursing Initiative program, which has been influential in training nursing professionals who plan to live and work in the region. In that capacity, she secured and managed part-time and full-time faculty, engaged with internal and community stakeholders, secured and managed funding to further enhance the impact of the program and other teaching and student-centered duties. Since the initiative was launched, she has secured more than \$440,000 and managed more than \$1.2 million in grant funding, with over \$830,000 focused on progression and success of underrepresented minority students.

Her accomplishments at USC Salkehatchie include:

- the creation of the high-fidelity clinical nursing simulation lab
- collaboration with high-level administrators at multiple UofSC System institutions to facilitate the successful BSN program partnership transition from UofSC Columbia to USC Beaufort
- professional publications and scholarship
- serving as a clinical assistant professor at both the Columbia and Beaufort campuses
- extensive service activities that illustrate a strong commitment to higher education, student success, diversity, evidence-based practice, teaching innovation and collaboration

A University of South Carolina alumna, Cone earned the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) in nurse executive leadership from the UofSC College of Nursing. She previously earned master's, bachelor's and associate degrees in nursing.

USC Salkehatchie has campuses in Allendale and Walterboro, and it is one of four regional USC Palmetto College campuses – including USC Lancaster, USC Sumter and USC Union – in the University of South Carolina system.



**"I am honored, humbled and excited to have the opportunity to lead USC Salkehatchie and continue to advance our mission of providing higher education and intellectual leadership for the Salkehatchie region and beyond."**

*April Cone, Campus Dean  
USC Salkehatchie*

## Duckworth earns 2022 Burggraf Award for highest GPA among nontraditional student learners

Sarah Jeanette Duckworth is the 2022 recipient of the David L. Burggraf 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 UofSC Columbia's Elementary Education online and hybrid bachelor's degree completion programs.

Originally from the gulf coast region, Duckworth describes herself as “the only child of a single mother” and says that even now, her mom is her role model both personally and professionally, because (again, her words) “I learned from her to appreciate the power of determination and the value of hard work.”

After graduating from Pensacola High School, Sarah attended college but – like many students – could not find that field of study right for her, that passion that spoke to her.

So, she decided to take a break and enter the workforce – what students sometimes refer to as their “gap year.” That gap year turned into 15 years – with all the various turns and twists and hills and valleys that come with life out in the real world.

She made her way to the Upstate region of South Carolina – which she has now called home for some 20 years and currently resides in Simpsonville (Greenville County).

As she continued to work, she took some classes at Greenville Technical College between 2007 and 2012. Around that time, she signed on with a telecommunications company in the Upstate, where she is currently director of process and training.

It was at her job that she became active in a mentoring program, and through it, found her passion for helping new leaders grow and develop. As she worked with others, helping them on their professional

journeys, she realized that she, too, had some unfinished business – her own education, her own bachelor's degree. It was that realization, along with her many years of professional real-world experience, that brought her to Palmetto College and to the Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership degree.



She entered Palmetto College in Fall 2020 and clearly demonstrated not only her academic knowledge and skill, but also her passion for learning – as indicated by the fact that she has been on the President's Honor Roll every semester since she's been enrolled.

Some of the adjectives Sarah's

**Sarah Duckworth, '22, says she plans to use her skills and knowledge gained in the Organizational Leadership program to influence her company's culture to be more inclusive, and to champion greater diversity in its leadership positions.**

professors use when describing her include exceptional, outstanding, delightful and assiduous.

One professor praised her work as “comprehensive, timely, instructive, and well-researched – showing a clear understanding of the material and a desire to know even more.”

Her foreign language professor referred to “her enthusiasm for French of a high quality,” noting that while most students corresponded with him via e-mail in English, she preferred to do so in French – again, an indication of her enthusiasm for learning, and for putting it into practice in her everyday life.

In recognition of her academic achievement, Sarah was inducted into Alpha Sigma Lambda in 2021.

Sarah is also an impressive individual outside the classroom – music trivia is one of her passions. She enjoys entering music trivia contests with her friends and they have emerged as winners.

She is also a runner and completed her first 5K run just before the pandemic; with life returning to something akin to normal, she plans to make those races regular events in her life.

Sarah says she plans to use her skills and knowledge gained in the Organizational Leadership program to influence her company's culture to be more inclusive, and to champion greater diversity in its leadership positions.

Upon graduating in May 2022, she plans to take her next step in her career path by becoming a department leader for customer operations – putting her

knowledge, experience, and passion to work in serving her clients and the general public.

Palmetto College was established to provide accessible and affordable UofSC degree opportunities to all sorts of students, but it is especially important for students like Sarah – 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 Sarah – 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 David L. Burggraf Award is named for the former director of Adult Student Services who devoted most of his career to the success of adult students at the University of South Carolina.



# Virtual Alpha Sigma Lambda induction honors adult student learners, 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 a virtual April 20 induction ceremony for membership in its

chapter of the Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society for adult learners.

This year's student inductees to the Upsilon Zeta chapter of Alpha Sigma Lambda included: Shanna Brown (Organizational Leadership), Anne Catucci (Elementary Education), Kimberly Baker (Organizational Leadership), Cynthia Curtis (Liberal Studies), Elizabeth Lown (Organizational Leadership), Heather Brock (Organizational Leadership), Jessica Scott (Liberal Studies), Cameron Browning (Liberal

Studies), Jenell Peoples (Liberal Studies), Jessica Buck (Elementary Education) and Derek Bledsoe (Organizational Leadership).

Each year, a few Palmetto College faculty and staff are selected for induction as honorary members of the chapter. Honorary inductees representing the Palmetto College Campuses and Palmetto College Columbia included: Cheryl Edwards, nursing director at USC Union; Kirsten Iden, assistant professor of English at USC Salkehatchie; Bernard Washington, regional Palmetto College coordinator at USC Sumter; and Laura Humphrey, academic program director at Palmetto College Columbia.

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.



## Alumna Profile



### Annalee Wyatt, '22

Associate of Arts, USC Union  
Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies, UofSC

#### Major:

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies majoring in Psychology, Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior, with a cognate in English.

#### Hometown:

Spartanburg, S.C.

#### Future Plans:

Accepted into the Master of Science-Distance Education (MS-DE) in Speech-Language Pathology program in the University of South Carolina Arnold School of Public Health for the Fall 2022 term.

#### What receiving a degree has meant:

Having the opportunity to receive a degree has opened my eyes to the endless possibilities that are around me, while remaining financially stable. By receiving a degree through Palmetto College at USC Union, I have been able to remain debt free while completing both an Associate in Arts and a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies. As a result, I have been able to explore every discipline that has piqued my interest such as Psychology, Health Promotion, Education and Behavior and English. Through my extensive studies of these disciplines due to the financial assistance that I have received, I have discovered a passion for the study of the mind and its connection to human communication and language and have chosen to continue my studies in Speech-Language Pathology this fall to achieve my ultimate goal of helping individuals with special needs gain confidence through enhancing their communication skills. None of this would have been possible without the financial support and limitless opportunities that I have been provided with during my time at USC Union and Palmetto College.

## The Hubb: USC Lancaster preventative health clinic is a state model for campus-community health partnerships

The University of South Carolina Lancaster is becoming a state model for health. Building on its broad commitment to health and educational equity, the regional Palmetto College campus has formalized a partnership with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to offer campus space for a teen-friendly satellite site of the Lancaster County Health Department. This unique campus-community partnership is a first of its kind in the state of South Carolina.

Under the clinic name “The Hubb,” the Lancaster County Health Department will provide preventive health services for teens and young people, including college-related immunizations, birth control, STI screenings and community referrals. The clinic is housed on the second floor of Hubbard Hall on the USCL campus, located at 476 Hubbard Drive. The preventive health clinic opened by appointment beginning Jan. 20, 2022. It operates on a regular basis on-campus on the third Thursday of each month.

“We are excited to partner with SC DHEC to provide much needed services to our own campus and also to young people throughout the community,” said USC Lancaster Campus Dean Walt Collins. “This partnership is an example of how students, faculty and community partners can collaborate together to help young people reach their educational goals.”

A true win-win-win Public health and nursing faculty at USC Lancaster looked closely at other college health partnerships throughout the state to learn how the campus

could offer high-quality health services at a low cost. By collaborating with community health partners like the Lancaster County Health Department, USCL is able to leverage a network of

services. In addition, an unintended pregnancy is one of the primary reasons why young people delay or discontinue their pursuit of higher education. This campus clinic partnership seeks to address these concerns.



### A strong stance of collaboration

This planning effort has been in the making for over three years and persisted despite the capacity challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Collaborative support was leveraged by local and statewide organizations including: Fact Forward, the Arras Foundation, the Children's Council, the Upper Midlands Rural Health Network, and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

“The Foundation is proud to support the important work of The Hubb in supporting essential health, education, and wellness needs of young people,” said Susan DeVenny, president and CEO of the Arras Foundation. “The Hubb is a model for true, lasting collaboration: joining together to listen and prioritize the needs of

these local young adults as we work to build a healthier community for all.”

In 2019, the Arras Foundation supported a site visit to a neighborhood teen wellness clinic in Spartanburg County, S.C. As a result of this experience, students, faculty and community partners realized that they were more prepared and ready to embark on creating teen-friendly clinic on campus than they had previously realized. A grant from Fact Forward, a statewide organization that supports adolescent health, enabled the coalition to catalyze this vision.

highly-qualified healthcare providers and services without additional fees attached to tuition.

“This partnership will enable us to improve the health outcomes of our own student population and young people throughout the community,” said Dr. Leigh Pate, clinical assistant professor at USC Lancaster.

Recent studies have shown that although some college-age students have insurance coverage, concerns about high deductibles or out-of-pocket spending may prevent them from using their insurance to access preventive



"There are so many partners who are standing strongly behind this clinic and believe in this work so deeply," said Andrea Campbell, project coordinator for TRIO Opportunity Scholars Program at USC Lancaster. "It truly will be a game changer for students and the greater community."

### **Designed for and by young people**

From the initial planning stages to implementation, USCL students have informed the critical aspects of the campus clinic. Beyond participating in the Spartanburg site visit, students conducted an audit of available campus spaces to identify an ideal clinic location. Hubbard Hall Room 214 was available and seemed to check most of the needs of the DHEC staff and the unique needs of young people.

Students were also surveyed on the best name for the clinic. The clinic was named "The Hubb" in 2020 as a nod to its campus location on the second floor of Hubbard Hall. This name also lends itself to describing the strong network of community linkages and referrals that can be made to increase

youth access to care. Student feedback also helped inform the clinic logo, which is the college mascot's Lancer shield and a symbolic gesture towards protecting one's health. Clinical artwork and marketing materials are comprised of USCL's campus colors of blue and yellow.

A student outreach intern was hired in 2021 to assist in setting up the clinic and getting the word out among students. "It has been fun to learn alongside USCL faculty and meet DHEC nurses who care so much," says Caroline Milhorn, a freshman at USC Lancaster and an outreach assistant for the project. "College is a time to learn and grow into adulthood, and learning how to navigate the healthcare system is an important step."

Next steps include making sure teens and youth-serving professionals throughout the community are aware and know how to access this new teen-friendly resource.



## **USC Lancaster Players win 2022 South Carolina Speech and Theatre Association College Festival state championship**

**T**he USC Lancaster Players competed in the 2022 South Carolina Speech and Theatre Association (SCSTA) College Festival earlier this month at Lander University and won the state championship for theatre and speech in total awards and points.

The troupe's roster includes: Kane Koestner, Diamond Mingo, Charlie Guiver, Zach Hathaway, Jessica Craven, Abigail Hunter, Trevor Auman, Jada Cannady, Lindsey Wilcox, Meg Greeley, Tristan Robinson and Renee Cooper. Students won awards in the following categories: duet acting, audition monologues, duet musical theatre, musical auditions and impromptu speaking.

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



## Annual USC Lancaster awards ceremony honors faculty, staff

At its annual Spring Fling event in mid-April 2022 to celebrate the end of the academic year, USC Lancaster awarded its highest honors for faculty and staff.

The winners of those two awards, the Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award and the Servant's Heart Award, are selected by the student body for each academic division and then the Peer Advisors subsequently select the overall Teacher of the Year and staff award for the campus.

Kim Covington, senior instructor of English, has been selected to receive the 2021-22 Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award and the Distinguished Teacher of the Year in Humanities.

Helen Champion, custodial staff member, is the recipient of the 2021-22 Servant's Heart Award.

Mike Sherrill, instructor of business, is the recipient of the Distinguished Teacher of the Year in Business, Behavioral Sciences, Criminal Justice, Education and Library Science.

Lynnette Martek, senior instructor of geology, is the recipient of the Distinguished Teacher of the Year in Math, Science, Nursing and Public Health.



*From left: Walter Collins, USCL campus dean; Victoria Holliday, student life assistant; Mike Sherrill, instructor of business; Lynnette Martek, senior instructor of geology; USC Distinguished Teacher of the Year recipient Kim Covington, senior instructor of English; USCL Servant's Heart Award recipient Helen Champion, custodial staff member; and Todd Lekan, associate dean of academic and student affairs.*

## Native American Studies Center receives Donnelley Foundation grant

By Ashley Lowrimore, reprinted from *Native American Studies Quarterly*

Thanks to a generous grant from the [Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation](#), the Native American Studies Center is one of three South Carolina organizations receiving funding through the "Broadening Narratives" grant, allowing our Native American Studies faculty to tell the underrepresented stories of South Carolina's Lowcountry tribal communities.

In December 2021, the Foundation announced that the NASC, along with the Clemson University Foundation and the Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston, are receiving a range of \$25K to \$100K to fund new projects, which collectively illustrate BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) communities, LGBTQ+ perspectives, working-class narratives, small community experiences, as well as other underrepresented groups and viewpoints.

The Center will continue its study for South Carolina's Native American peoples, their histories, and their cultures by gathering oral histories, artifacts, and conducting research to preserve largely

undocumented traditions and stories in tribal communities with roots in the Lowcountry, including the Beaver Creek Indians, the Edisto Natchez-Kusso Tribe of South Carolina, the Waccamaw Indian People, the Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians, the Etiwan Tribe of Wassamasaw Indian Nation, the Yamassee Indian Nation, the Pine Hill Indian Tribe, the Winyah, the Chicora, and the Santee Indian Organization. The Lowcountry was a significant site for Native American tribes across the region for trade and was a nexus for interaction with European settlers and enslaved Africans.

"Very little scholarly work has been done to document and preserve the living traditions of South Carolina Native Americans, particularly in the Lowcountry," said Dr. Stephen Criswell, director of Native American Studies.

"The small, often isolated but vibrant Native communities have existed largely under the radar of outside scholars. Some members of these communities were enslaved by European colonists; others found their tribal communities driven to near extinction. Some identified, at times, as

white; others were labeled as African American. With the generous support of the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, the Native American Studies Center at USC Lancaster will help document, preserve, and share these rich cultural traditions maintained by the life experiences and in the memories of the elders and leaders of these communities."

Criswell says that the oral histories, artifacts, and other research supported by the grant will culminate in an interactive traveling exhibit featuring the culture and traditions of these Lowcountry area tribes. Recorded oral histories and other materials will be archived and featured on the Center's website and/or the Native American South Carolina Archive.

More information will be available later on regarding how museums, galleries, or other organizations interested in hosting the exhibit may book it through the Center.

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.





## Light the Cupola!

**U**SC Lancaster has embarked on an effort to recognize and honor academic and other accomplishments in the Lancer campus community with our Light the Cupola! project. At various times throughout the year the cupola of the James Bradley Arts and Sciences Building will glow with Lancer pride in honor or in recognition of outstanding achievement.

Conceived through conversations in meetings of the USC Lancaster Board of Visitors and the USCL Town-Gown Advisory Group, the objective of Light the Cupola! is to bring more awareness to the many wonderful accomplishments of USC Lancaster students, faculty and staff.

The very first honorees for Light the Cupola! were the graduates of the May 1, 2021, virtual Commencement ceremony, and the cupola was lit with alternating Blue and Yellow lights on the evenings of May 1 and 2. The lighting system is a state-of-the-art LED system with a large variety of color capacity, so in addition to recognitions of achievement, you also may see pink in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October or Green for Earth Day in April.

This spring, between April 25 and May 2, 2022, USCL lit the cupola of the Bradley Building each evening in celebration of the many recent accomplishments of and honors for USC Lancaster students, faculty and staff.

When you're in the area after dark, look up and see if the Bradley cupola is aglow. You will know right away that USCL is celebrating something special.

## Alumna Profile



### Teresa "Missy" Melton, '21, '22

**Associate in Arts with High Honors, May 2021**

**Associate in Science with High Honors, May 2021**

**Associate in Science in Criminal Justice with High Honors, May 2022**

**USC Lancaster**

**Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies, Magna Cum Laude, May 2022**

**UofSC Columbia**

**M**issy's organizational involvement included the TRiO Programs Opportunity Scholars Program; D.E.F.I.N.E., in which she serves as club president; PALS; and L.A.S.T. (Lancers Against Sex Trafficking), for which she is founder and club president. In addition, she has participated in every D.E.F.I.N.E., TRiO and USCL Cares Community Service Project since enrolling at USCL (donor, packing and delivery of items).

Her honors and awards include being named to the President's and/or Dean's Honor Roll every semester in which she was enrolled at USC Lancaster and UofSC Columbia; Graduation with Leadership Distinction in Professional and Civic Engagement in May 2021; and recognition by the South Carolina House of Representatives in May 2021. S.C. Representative Thomas E. "Tommy" Pope initiated a house resolution to commend Missy for her academic excellence and for the tasks she has undertaken within the community, including sharing information on the prevention of human trafficking.

Additional honors and awards include induction to Phi Beta Kappa; the National Society of Leadership and Success; Society of Collegiate Leadership and Achievement; Alpha Sigma Lambda honor society; service as a member of the USCL Academic Honor Code Council; and recognition for Excellence and Outstanding Achievement for Graduation with Leadership Distinction for her presentation, "[Campus Organizations Create Community Leaders](#)."

Post-graduation, Missy plans to continue making a difference in the criminal and social justice systems through preventing human trafficking in South Carolina and nationally. Currently, she is conducting research on Indigenous Americans because of the high per-capita percentage of human trafficking of men and women who are Indigenous.



# "COVID Diary"

Exhibition by artist Fran Gardner



See the never-before-seen artwork of USC Lancaster Distinguished Professor Emerita of Art and Art History Fran Gardner in the exhibit, "COVID Diary," chronicling the artist's creative journey since novel coronavirus-related shutdowns began in early 2020.

Open March 10, 2022 through Friday, Aug. 5, 2022 at USC Lancaster's Bradley Arts & Sciences Building.

476 Hubbard Drive, Lancaster, SC 29720

Phone: 803-313-7036

Email: [uscl.collection.gallery@sc.edu](mailto:uscl.collection.gallery@sc.edu)



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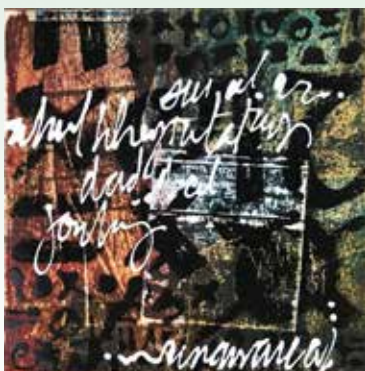
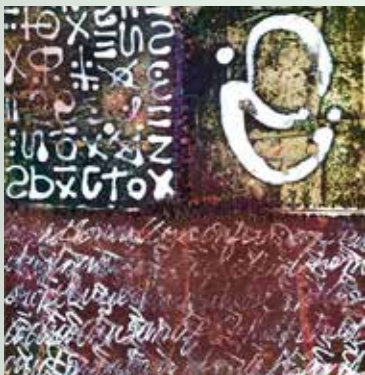


UNIVERSITY OF  
**South Carolina**  
LANCASTER

**NA** Native American  
Studies Center



FRAN GARDNER



View more about the artist and her work at [www.frangardnerart.com](http://www.frangardnerart.com), or contact her at [Fran@Frangardnerart.com](mailto:Fran@Frangardnerart.com).





USC Lancaster TRiO students visited the College of William and Mary, a public research university in Williamsburg, Va., during spring break.



## Medford Library hosts book reading and signing for Evans' new book

The Medford Library at USC Lancaster hosted a book reading and signing for USCL Professor Emerita of Psychology Dianne Evans on March 31 in support of her second book, [\*Saving Remnants\*](#) (Eber & Wein Publishing, 2020). Over 30 people were in attendance for the talk.

Through a series of short, real-life stories, *Saving Remnants* pays homage to emotionally-disturbed and socially-maladjusted children and to those who seek to help them.

It contains remnants of real children in K-12 public schools, including some of the children for which Evans had the responsibility of serving in her role as a state-certified (S.C.) teacher for the emotionally-handicapped and as a nationally certified school psychologist.

During her career as a teacher, professor, counselor and school psychologist, Evans has received numerous awards for distinguished teaching and writing.



## First industrial process engineering program cohort graduates this spring

Zachary Wilson and Jacob Horn are USC Salkehatchie's first cohort of students to complete the first two years of requirements for the 2 + 2 Industrial Process Engineering program with USC Aiken. The pair graduated with their associate degrees this spring, will complete some additional summer courses, and then continue the program at USC Aiken this fall.

Both Wilson and Horn are pleased with their decisions to start engineering degrees at USC Salkehatchie.

"Salk provides many opportunities that are not available at four-year colleges. I participated in an internship as a sophomore where I learned important skills such as time management, leadership and working independently," said Wilson.

The future engineers served as STEM ambassadors and flight camp counselors. They are Palmetto Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE) grant research recipients, department interns, WORC grant scholars and have completed several independent research studies while earning course credit.

"USC Salkehatchie has gone out of its way to make sure I have made connections with local engineering companies through events, lectures, and classes," said Horn.

Horn was awarded funding to work on a PURE project with engineering and mathematics professor Dr. Brian Lindmark over the summer. He leveraged his 3D printing experience, gained from his engineering courses at Salkehatchie, to generate three-dimensional models from real data gathered from landmines. This required him to learn about the data that was collected and then figure out how to translate that into a three-dimensional model for printing. He was able to successfully use his creativity and problem-solving skills to generate a working solution to a modern engineering problem.

Wilson was awarded a PURE grant to work with Eran Kilpatrick, professor of biology, in the USC Salkehatchie Herbarium where he prepared and

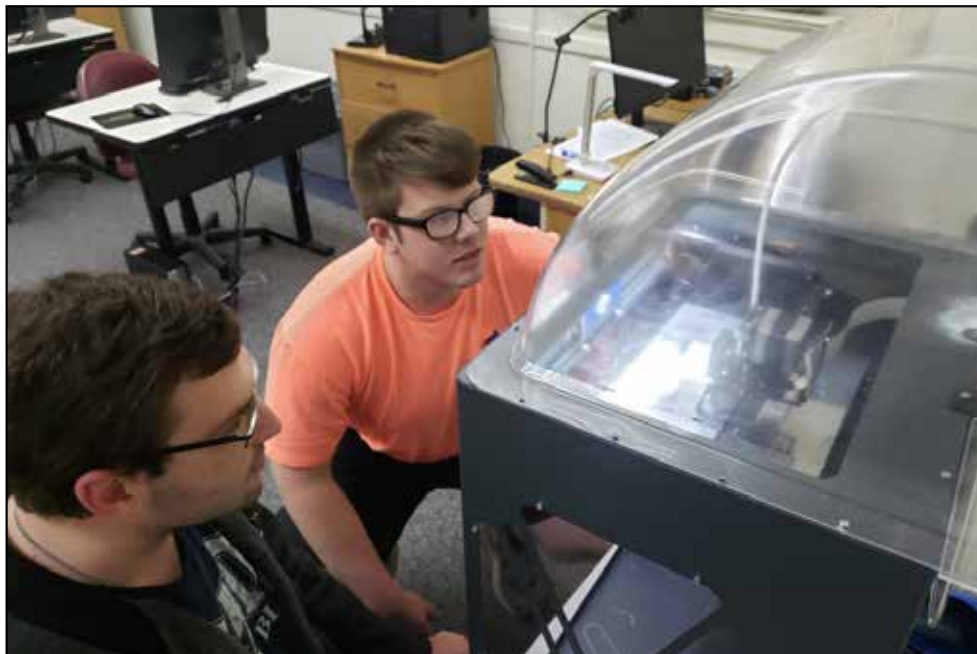
digitized hundreds of museum-quality plant specimens. He presented his research at the South Carolina Academy of Science Annual Meeting and Discover UofSC.

"It has been my great pleasure to work with Jacob and Zachary both inside and outside of the classroom. Both students have demonstrated a passion

will provide both financial support, enjoyment, and a bit of a challenge," Horn said.

STEM Program Coordinator Holly McCrary said Salkehatchie is lucky to have the duo as part of the program.

"I could not be prouder of these students. They are motivated, academically gifted and a perfect



*3-D SUCCESS: Jacob Horn and Zachary Wilson work on a 3-D modeling assignment as part of their engineering course. The duo were USC Salkehatchie's first cohort of students to complete the first two years of requirements for the 2 + 2 Industrial Process Engineering program.*

for engineering through their studies as well as their extracurricular activities," Lindmark said.

"In addition to being the inaugural graduates of the 2+2 transfer program for industrial process engineering at Salkehatchie, they have also completed internships with faculty members and worked as STEM ambassadors promoting outreach to the community. They have both demonstrated the aptitude and drive to be successful in engineering, and I look forward to seeing what they do in the future."

One goal of Salkehatchie's STEM program is to train highly skilled workers for the region and that fits perfectly with Horn's and Wilson's future plans. Both plan to remain in the region after completing their engineering degrees.

"I plan to stay local and find a strong job in the engineering field that

example of the incredible students we have at Salkehatchie. I'm grateful to have had them as part of the program made possible by SRSCRO, SRS and WORC grant funding," she said.

The 2+2 degree in Industrial Process Engineering is a partnership with USC Aiken where students can complete the first two years of coursework for the degree at the USC Salkehatchie campus.

The students benefit from small class sizes where they receive individual attention from their professors and are given the opportunity to work directly with modern technologies such as 3D printers. Students also have a variety of additional funding opportunities available to them in the form of scholarships and internships which help them to reduce their costs while simultaneously developing their professional skills.



# Bennett named NJCAA Region 10 Coach of the Year, players honored

Coach Matthew Bennett, first-year interim head coach for the USC Salkehatchie men's basketball program, has been named NJCAA Region 10 Coach of the Year. Bennett credits the determination of the players for their success this season.

"Although we had an atypical start to our season, I am glad that the team and I were able to work together to accomplish the goals that we set out to achieve before the season began," Bennett said. "Together, we have endured many adverse moments. However, we didn't let those things deter us. I'm thankful to the University of South Carolina Salkehatchie for the opportunity to demonstrate my understanding and love for the game of basketball and for seeing my potential."

Bennett began the season serving as an assistant coach before being named interim head coach mid-season.

"I would be remiss if I did not extend my sincere gratitude toward Glen Mayo, who believed in me and took me under his wing. He has taught me a lot and continues to serve as a great mentor to me," Bennett said.

Additionally, three men's basketball players and two women's basketball team members were recognized for their success this season.

Sophomore guard D.J. Sinkler was named to the 2021-22 NJCAA Division

I Men's Basketball All-America Team (honorable mention) and First Team All-Region 10. All-America selections are made by the NJCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee and recognize the top 50 NJCAA Division I players nationally. Sinkler averaged 17.3 points per game this season.

"We are extremely proud of D.J. and all that he accomplished while he was a member of our team. The fact that he is being recognized as an All-American speaks volumes about his ability and about his value to our team," Bennett said. "I am even more proud of the way he developed as a leader for us. His attitude and work ethic made him an absolute pleasure to coach."

For the men's team, Kharye Cayne was

named Region 10 Defensive Player of the Year, averaging 3.4 blocks per game and 8.2 rebounds per game. Guard Lee



Langstaff, averaging 15.9 points per game this season, was named to the All-Region 10 First Team. Amari Hunter was also named to the All-Region 10 First Team and Jasmine Norman was named to the All-Region 10 Second Team for the women's basketball team. Hunter averaged 20.7 points per game while Norman averaged 17.2 points per game.

## Lawson named men's basketball coach

Kyle Lawson has been named head men's basketball coach for the University of South Carolina Salkehatchie.

"We are excited to welcome Coach Lawson to the USC Salkehatchie family. He is no stranger to NJCAA basketball and displays a passion for not only the sport but, more importantly, holding his players to a high standard both on and off the court," Director of Athletics Jeremy Joye said. "His commitment to academic excellence and integrity in his players communicates an understanding that it is not about the



next two years or four years for these athletes, but rather about the next 20-40 years. That is the mission here at USC Salkehatchie—to prepare them for the next 20-40 years."

Lawson comes to USC Salkehatchie from Black Hills State University, where he most recently was an assistant coach. While there, he specialized in player development and opponent scouting. The Yellow Jackets, during Lawson's time, achieved multiple new milestones: two Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) Championships, an RMAC Tournament Championship, and trips to the NCAA Division II Tournament and Final Four this year.

"I'm so excited and appreciative to receive my first head coaching job," Lawson said. "I couldn't ask for a better

opportunity to continue to grow and impact student-athletes lives on a daily basis. This program has been built into a well-known name by the previous coaches and I can't thank them enough. I'm ready to get to work!"

An Orange County, California native, Lawson also made a stop at Dawson Community College, helping them make it to the NJCAA Division I Tournament for the first time in school history. Before coaching, he played collegiately at Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver) and Orange Coast College.

Lawson received his bachelor's degree in history from MSU Denver and went on to obtain his master's degree in strategic leadership from Black Hills State University.

## Wright named assistant dean of student success

**B**randon J. Wright has been named assistant dean of student success for the University of South Carolina Salkehatchie.

Wright, who is passionate about student achievement, joined USC Salkehatchie in 2021 as director of student success and engagement. His new position allows him to expand on his vision of creating student environments that provide multiple opportunities for students to realize their goals of obtaining a college education.

“Dr. Wright’s experience, academic work, personality, and commitment to student success make him the ideal person to fill this new role,” Interim Dean John Catalano said.

“His experience will help USC Salkehatchie fulfill its academic mission, and we are excited about the contributions he will make to our campus community.”

Wright’s primary responsibility will be to ensure that students receive the assistance they need to remain in school and graduate while having the college experience. He will oversee student support services, including enrollment management, financial aid, student records, educational partnerships,

academic advising and student life.

Wright is eager to begin working with the students, staff and faculty to create the ideal “Salkehatchie Experience” that will foster holistic success from a student’s admission to degree



completion.

“As a son of the Lowcountry, I am excited and humbled to serve our students and families. Serving in this role is my way of using my gifts, talents and education to say thank you and give back to my community,” Wright said.

“Having this opportunity to serve at Salkehatchie is nostalgic for me, but it is also a new adventure filled with countless possibilities that will benefit our entire campus community. My goal is to help create life-long memories for our students as they reflect on their time at Salkehatchie.”

Wright believes that a bolstering, rich student experience is one of the most important elements of student success.

“I will work to ensure our students

have that experience. Although we are in trying times, these are also exciting times for higher education in crafting innovative and cutting-edge ways of recruiting, retaining, and engaging our students. I have been fortunate to realize that student success is my calling and not merely an occupation. My passion for the success and wellbeing of my students is what fuels me to continue to learn, grow and advocate on their behalf,” he said.

Wright brings years of experience in higher education serving in various roles at the University of South Carolina Beaufort and Midlands Technical College. While at USC Beaufort, Wright served as assistant director of academic coaching and coordinator of the Sand Shark Scholars program. In those roles, he helped at-risk and first-generation college students succeed while creating initiatives that enhanced the college experience. Wright also assisted in implementing programs to promote diversity, inclusion and student engagement at USCB.

Wright holds a doctoral degree in educational leadership from Mercer University, a master’s degree from Columbia College and a bachelor’s degree from Benedict College.

## Chinnasami, Lai present math research at MAA regional conference

**W**hile most students spent spring break taking time off from educational pursuits, USC Salkehatchie freshman Vigneshwaran Chinnasami attended the Mathematical Association of America Southeastern Section Meeting at Berry College with Bryan Lai, his math instructor and research mentor.

Even though Vignesh participated in the math activities designed for undergraduates at the conference, his focus for attending was to present a project he had been working on with Lai: Magic Square Type Sliding Games. He also had the opportunity to hear Lai and two other professors present on an activity they have been working on for the past 15 years: Math Treasure Hunt: Past, Present and Future.

“This was my first presentation and this opportunity educated me on the processes and procedures of working on a research project and presenting it,”

Chinnasami said.

“This will help me with my career in the future. The conference motivated me to participate in more programs, not just in the field of math. It was an amazing opportunity.”

Lai immediately noticed Vignesh’s solid math background when the international student enrolled in his business calculus class.

“His calculation and quantitative reasoning skills are very strong,” Lai said.

“He did a great job at the conference. Although this was Vignesh’s first conference experience, I am sure there will be more to come!”

Vignesh is one of the many students at USC Salkehatchie who are conducting research and presenting their findings at conferences as freshmen and sophomores, an opportunity rarely available to lower-division students at four-year universities.







## Salkehatchie-Beaufort partnership graduates first BSN nursing cohort

After graduating 122 Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students through USC Salkehatchie's partnership with the UofSC Columbia College of Nursing, a new tradition has begun.

USC Salkehatchie is now in partnership with USC Beaufort to deliver the BSN program to Salkehatchie-based students.

"We are excited and proud to

announce that the first USC Beaufort at Salkehatchie BSN cohort graduated on April 29," said April Cone, academic program manager. "In addition to the 13 seniors graduating next week, 13 juniors and 14 sophomores are currently enrolled in the partnership program."

The upper division application will open in May with a new cohort of up to 16 nursing students beginning the

nursing program in January 2023.

Strategic collaboration among UofSC campuses and community partners allows students to apply knowledge acquired in the classroom in the clinical setting. The partnership program, which is committed to "growing our own nurses," is vital in meeting the critical need for highly qualified registered nurses to care for those living in and around the Salkehatchie region.

## Mogilski named 2022 UofSC Research Breakthrough Star

Justin K. Mogilski, assistant professor of psychology, has been named a 2022 Breakthrough Star by the University of South Carolina Office of the Vice President for Research.

"It is a major privilege to offer my sincerest congratulations to every 2022 Breakthrough award recipient. I know from my own experiences working in UofSC's labs and other research settings how high a bar our research community sets for itself. To rise to the top of such a distinguished group of professionals is a very remarkable feat," Interim Vice President for Research Julius Fridriksson said.

This signature recognition program honors a small group of peer-nominated and reviewed faculty members from UofSC Columbia, USC Aiken, USC Beaufort, USC Upstate and the regional Palmetto College campuses at USC Lancaster, USC Salkehatchie, USC Sumter and USC Union. These faculty members exceed expectations in their fields, demonstrate exceptional potential, and have made outstanding

contributions to research and scholarship during a short time at UofSC.



several years now. He has earned the respect of the faculty here, as evidenced by his election to USC Salkehatchie faculty chair," Interim Dean John Catalano said.

Mogilski joined USC Salkehatchie in 2018. He has been a major contributor to seven peer-reviewed journal articles, has written several book chapters, and has reviewed over 60 pieces of scholarship for peer-reviewed journals. His work has been cited by various news sources.

"Dr. Mogilski has earned the reputation as an excellent teacher,

"Dr. Mogilski deserves the Breakthrough Star Award. The rest of the UofSC will soon recognize what we at USC Salkehatchie have seen in him for

involving his students in his research and bringing them into the scholarly discourse community," Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs Bryan Love said. "His students frequently comment on his ability to facilitate open and useful discussion on course topics."

Mogilski says his colleagues play a significant role in his success.

"I want to thank my colleagues at USC Salkehatchie, Oakland University, Bucknell University, Albright College, and elsewhere. My research is a labor of compassion, and it's only been possible with the love and insight of those who help and inspire me. I accept this award with gratitude for their investment in me," he said.

Mogilski has been awarded the RISE grant (2019, 2021) the PURE grant (2021), and the ASPIRE grant (2020) by the university for his research. He currently serves as USC Salkehatchie's faculty chair.

## USC Sumter Earns 2022-2023 Military Friendly School designation

The University of South Carolina Sumter has earned the 2022-2023 Military Friendly School designation.

Institutions earning the Military Friendly School designation were evaluated using both public data sources and responses from a proprietary survey. More than 1,800 schools participated in the 2022-2023 survey with 665 earning special awards for going above the standard.

The 2022-2023 Military Friendly Schools list is published in the May and October issue of *G.I. Jobs* magazine, published by Viqtory Media, and can also be found at [www.militaryfriendly.com](http://www.militaryfriendly.com).

Methodology, criteria, and weightings were determined by Viqtory with

input from the Military Friendly Advisory Council of independent leaders in the higher education and military recruitment community. Final ratings were determined by combining the institution's survey scores with the assessment of the institution's ability to meet thresholds for student retention, graduation, job placement, loan repayment, persistence (degree advancement or transfer) and loan default rates for all students and, specifically, for student veterans.

"This is the fifth year that USC Sumter has received the Military Friendly School designation, and it goes without saying that we are extremely proud to be recognized in this way. We are pleased that the hard work and dedication of

resources that we put into serving our military personnel is recognized and appreciated. We pledge to continue this focus into the future as we strive to serve our community," said USC Sumter Campus Dean Michael Sonntag.

"Military Friendly is committed to transparency and providing consistent data-driven standards in our designation process. Our standards provide a benchmark that promotes positive outcomes and support services that better the educational landscape and provide opportunity for the Military Community. This creates a competitive atmosphere that encourages colleges to evolve and invest in their programs consistently. Schools who achieve awards designation show true commitment in their efforts, going over and above that standard," said Kayla Lopez, national director of military partnerships for Military Friendly.



## Opportunity Scholars Program holds Community Service Day

The Opportunity Scholars Program (OSP) at USC Sumter held a Community Service Day on Feb. 25. Students and staff from the program set up in downtown Sumter on the corner of Main and Liberty Streets to hand out gift bags that contained face masks and antibacterial gel. OSP held the community service day in celebration of National TRIO Day.

TRIO is a grant program funded by the U.S. Department of Education and supports organizations such as the Opportunity Scholars Program at USC Sumter. OSP helps college students who are low-income, first-generation (those whose parents do not have a four-year college degree) or students with disabilities. In addition, all eligible students must demonstrate a need for academic support. The array of services that the grant provides are comprehensive and include academic tutoring, financial aid advice, career and college mentoring, help in choosing courses and other forms of assistance. Such services enhance academic success and make it more likely that students will graduate or transfer with



the lowest possible debt. On average, OSP participants have higher GPAs than traditional students with a 2.9 cumulative grade point average, 88 percent in good academic standing, 48 percent graduating with an associate degree and 41 percent graduating and transferring into a four-year academic

program.

"It is very rewarding to assist students in their higher education degree attainment process that may not otherwise have anyone who can help them," said Lisa Rosdail, director of TRIO Programs at USC Sumter.





## Sumter-Aiken nursing program cohort completes first year

The inaugural cohort of USC Sumter nursing students finished their first year of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program in partnership with USC Aiken.

The program, which began courses in the fall 2021 semester, was developed as a result of conversations with local healthcare providers in the Sumter, S.C., area. USC Sumter is the first higher education institution in its community to offer such a degree. The goal of the program is to not only educate and

train future nurses but to also encourage these nurses to stay local.

To facilitate the learning needs associated with the new program, the campus renovated space in the Anderson Library where students experience an active learning environment with redesigned nursing classrooms, dedicated study space, a nursing skills lab and a state-of-the-art high-fidelity simulation lab.

"We are grateful for the donors, grants and legislative support that

we have received in support of our new program," said USC Sumter Dean Michael Sonntag.

Donors for the nursing lab have included NHC Health Sumter, McLeod Health Clarendon, Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital and The Tuomey Foundation. Their generosity has accounted for nearly \$200,000 in donations to help support the nursing program and facilities at USC Sumter.

## Alumna Profile: Ngaru Ngom, '22



**Ngaru Ngom, '22**

*Associate of Science, USC Sumter*

Ngaru Ngom now calls Sumter home, but for most of her childhood she was raised in The Gambia, a West African nation.

After a couple of moves, Ngaru and her family settled in Sumter, S.C., and she began her freshman year at Sumter High School. Ngaru is now a sophomore at USC Sumter studying biology and preparing to graduate with an Associate of Science in May 2022.

While at USC Sumter, Ngaru has excelled academically and over her two years on campus, she has been awarded several scholarships that have benefited her financially.

"I was very grateful to receive scholarships," said Ngaru. "When I started looking into college, I was worried it would be too expensive.

Thankfully, I received scholarships from generous donors at USC Sumter. It was nice to not have to worry about working while I was attending classes."

Even though Ngaru was not working a typical part-time job, she found time to work as a student lab assistant at USC Sumter.

"It is a job, but I feel like it will be a benefit for my academic career because I am working in the lab and learning skills that will be helpful for my degree," she said.

After she graduates from USC Sumter, Ngaru plans to transfer to a four-year university to complete her bachelor's degree. Eventually, she would like to attend medical school and one day become a family practitioner or work in an emergency room.



## USC Sumter Tennis Teams qualify for NJCAA national tournaments

**T**he USC Sumter men's and women's tennis teams have had an outstanding year.

Both Fire Ant teams have already qualified for the NJCAA National Championship this season.

This will be the third appearance for the men's team which is currently

ranked No. 9 in the nation, and the women will experience their second trip to the championship tournament.

"Our teams are very excited for the opportunity to once again compete on the national level," said Head Tennis Coach Andrew Bartelmo. "Both teams have been working hard all season and

I feel they are prepared to perform at a competitive level with the other teams they will be facing."

The women's team will compete in Tucson, Ariz., in early May 2022, while the men's team will travel to Tyler, Texas, for competition later in May.





## Fire Ants Esports Team featured on Sumter Today

The USC Sumter Esports program was recently featured on the [April 26 Sumter Today broadcast](#) on Facebook Watch.

The broadcast journalists from *The Sumter Item* visited the Call of Duty team during a quarterfinals match against Laramie County Community College (Wyoming) in the National Junior College Athletic Association Esports (NJCAA). The program averages 20-plus students from all walks of life, and the compete in games like Call of Duty, Super Smash Brothers, Rainbow Six Siege, Rocket League, Madden, FIFA and Overwatch.

The Fire Ants Esports team won the Rocket League Championship in December 2019. Sumter's varsity esports team was launched in 2015 and has previously ranked on the ESPN Top 50 list.

Established in 2016, the National Association of Collegiate Esports (NACE) is the only association of varsity esports programs at colleges and universities across the United States. In total, NACE is comprised of more than 170 member schools constituting 5,000-plus student athletes.

Earlier in April 2022, USC Sumter Campus Dean Michael Sontagg led a team that included USC Sumter



Athletics Director Adrienne Cataldo, Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins, interim USC Sumter Assistant Dean for Business and Administrative Management Hendrikus van Bulck and USC Sumter Director of Student Life and Esports Head Coach Kris Weissmann for a presentation, titled "[Launching and Managing an Esports Program in Higher Education](#)," at the 77th Annual Society for the Advancement of Management (SAM) International Business Conference.



## Acharyya, Chetri organize National Pi Day event to benefit local charity

To celebrate everyone's favorite mathematical constant – Pi, USC Sumter faculty Soumyadip Acharyya, assistant professor of mathematics, and Sher Chhetri, assistant professor of mathematics, (pictured in the top right row) organized a special campus event on [National Pi Day](#), March 14.

The pair organized a pie sale which raised money for a local charity, Sumter United Ministries.

They also hosted an online quiz for students, faculty and staff to test their knowledge of Pi.

[Pi is a mathematical constant, which is known under such names as the Ludolphine Number, Archimedes' constant or written down as a Greek letter "π," has been used for many years in its mathematical sense.](#)



## Lutz Foundation awards grant to USC Union nursing program

Due to a partnership with USC Aiken's School of Nursing program, USC Union offers a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in Union.

In the fall of 2019, the campus welcomed their first cohort of pre-nursing students. The pre-nursing students complete prerequisite general education courses at USC Union, and then only 16 nursing students are accepted during each admission cycle in to the School of Nursing.

The nursing students study in USC Union's state-of-the-art simulation and skills labs that are complete with low and high fidelity mannequins for a real world simulation. This spring semester, the Lutz Foundation awarded a grant to USC Union's nursing program to purchase a maternity simulator. The Lutz Foundation (501-C3) was established in 1995 with the purpose of endowing a foundation that would help to fund many community needs. With their help, USC Union was able to purchase a Noelle Childbirth Patient simulator. This educational mannequin is a simulation-based training solution that offers labor and delivery simulation



to allow nursing students to experience various scenarios.

"Grants such as the one provided to USC Union by the Lutz Foundation helps the School of Nursing place emphasis on the recruitment and training of registered nursing students. These students are from under-served communities and the goal is retaining those nurses within our rural and under-served areas, targeting Union, Chester and Laurens counties specifically," said

USC Union Nurse Administrator Lynn Edwards.

USC Aiken's nursing program is approved by the South Carolina State Board of Nursing and is fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCCNE).

For more information about USC Union's nursing program, please contact [Lynn Edwards](#).

## Holocaust survivor Irene Fogel Weiss delivers lecture



USC Union hosted Holocaust survivor Irene Fogel Weiss in a virtual lecture for faculty, staff and students on Jan. 31 in the Whitener Building.

Kevin Torres, USC Union instructor of Spanish, Italian and French, was instrumental in bringing the educational talk to campus.

According to Torres, "Jan. 27 was International Holocaust Remembrance Day. This date also marked the 77th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. With the upcoming study abroad and course that I will teach, students will learn about the Holocaust in-depth and will have the opportunity to see Auschwitz with their own eyes."

"However," he continued, "before the commencement of the course and study

abroad, I wanted students, faculty, and staff to have the opportunity to listen to a Holocaust survivor describe and talk about their experiences in their own words. To have the immense opportunity of being able to listen to Holocaust survivor Irene Fogel Weiss talk and describe in her own words about her experiences during the Holocaust is indescribable."

"I hope that those who take this opportunity reflect on her words and continue educating themselves about the Holocaust and share what they learn with others so that they too will be educated about the Holocaust. We must never forget," he said.

Irene Weiss was born Iren Fogel on Nov. 21, 1930, in Bótrágy, Czechoslovakia (now Batrad', Ukraine)



# Student/Alumnus Profile: Caden Jackson, '21

Caden Jackson is currently enrolled as a junior in the Palmetto College Columbia liberal studies program. In 2021, he was awarded dual Associate of Arts and Sciences degrees, both with high honors and graduation with leadership distinction in research from USC Union.

Having major areas of focus in Sociology, Psychology and African American Studies, Caden maintains an active research agenda and received the Magellan Scholar Award for his study, "Meditation as a Means to Reduce Implicit Bias," awarded by the UofSC Columbia Office of Undergraduate Research. Caden was also a recipient of the PURE grant for his research study, "Global Citizenship and Multiculturalism: Do core classes work?"

He is currently working on multiple research studies under the mentorship of USC Union Dean Randy Lowell, interim Academic Dean Maggie Aziz and Steven Lownes, assistant professor of world languages at USC Union and campus coordinator for the Center for Integrative and Experiential Learning.

Caden has presented his research at several USC Union Research Club events, as well as Discover USC, the



**Caden Jackson, '21**

*Associate of Arts, USC Union  
Associate of Science, USC Union  
Liberal Studies major, UofSC Columbia*

Southeastern Psychological Association regional conference, and the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) Conference on Diversity, Equity and Student Success.

He has recently been accepted into the Magellan Ambassador cohort for 2022-2023 by the UofSC Columbia

Office of Undergraduate Research. As a Magellan Ambassador, he will represent the Office of Undergraduate Research through presentations of his research studies at University of South Carolina campuses and promote the opportunities of undergraduate research through university events.

Caden is a member of the USC Union Research Club and the African American Alliance. During his time at USC Union, he has received numerous discipline awards, including the Psychology Award, Sociology Award, African American Studies Award, Art History Award and Speech Award. He has received several scholarships for academic achievement such as the USC Union Partnership Scholarship, the Jack and Nonie Flynn Scholarship, the Irwin and Heidi From Scholarship, the Union County Mental Health Scholarship and the George Washington Vaughn Scholarship.

Caden plans to graduate with a Bachelor's of Arts in Liberal Studies in the spring of 2023. He is currently working toward obtaining Graduation with Leadership Distinction in the pathways of research and social diversity and advocacy at the baccalaureate degree level.

to Meyer and Leah Fogel. Meyer owned a lumber yard, and Leah managed their home and cared for Irene and her five siblings – Moshe, Edit, Reuven, Gershon and Serena.



When Nazi Germany dismembered Czechoslovakia in 1939, Bótrágy, located in Subcarpathian Rus, came

under Hungarian rule. Hungarian authorities banned Jews from attending school, confiscated Jewish businesses, and required thousands of Jewish men to be inducted into Hungarian forced labor brigades under military command. Among them was Irene's father, Meyer, who was conscripted in 1942.

Beginning in May 1944, nearly 425,000 Jews were deported from Hungary to Auschwitz-Birkenau, including Irene and her family. Irene was 13 years old. Upon arrival at the camp, her mother, three younger siblings, and older brother were killed. Irene married Martin Weiss in 1949

and they moved to northern Virginia in 1953. She earned a bachelor of arts degree in education from American University and taught in the Fairfax County Public School system in Virginia for 13 years. Irene and Martin have three children and Irene is a volunteer at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The United States Holocaust Memorial, located in Washington D.C., is a "living" memorial to the Holocaust and educates people about the dangers of hatred and the need to prevent genocide.



## USC Union students win poetry contest

Three USC Union students were winners of a poetry contest and read their poems (page 47) at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Palmetto College iCarolina Lab at USC Union, as well as at an event in celebration of Palmetto College's tenth anniversary at the President's House on the UofSC Columbia Horseshoe.

The students included sophomore

Brittany Hightower, freshman Christopher Williams and freshman Thomas Dartez. Another student, Evelyn Monteros-Vaca, used an iPad to create a drawing that brought together elements of all the campus educational facilities as one "logo."

Pictured above (from left) are USC Union freshman Christopher Williams; UofSC First Lady Patricia-Moore

Pastides; Anita Whitney, student affairs coordinator and women's volleyball coach at USC Union; USC Union sophomore Brittany Hightower; UofSC President Harris Pastides; and Madjouline Aziz, interim associate dean of academic affairs and associate professor of sociology at USC Union.

## USC Union awards ceremony honors outstanding faculty, staff



**Avery M. Fouts**  
Associate Professor  
of Philosophy and  
Religious Studies

*Distinguished  
Teacher of the Year*



**Jennifer Emswiler**  
Assistant Professor of  
Fine Arts

*First Runner-Up*



**Emily Schafer**  
Assistant Professor of  
Psychology

*Second Runner-Up*



**Deborah Hudson**  
Adjunct Instructor

*Adjunct Instructor of  
the Year*



**Anita Whitney**  
Student Affairs  
Coordinator and  
Women's Volleyball  
Coach

*Staff of the Year*



1965

A palmetto college built in a small town  
From 51 students to over a thousand  
A place to learn, grow, and maybe even settle  
down  
The freight of leaving high school  
All you've ever known  
To go somewhere new  
That empty feeling of being alone  
But you still chase your dreams  
You finally feel grown  
Gradually you realize that  
USC Union is your new home  
Professors know you by name  
You're not just a number here  
They care about your well-being  
And they care about your career  
Students in the classroom  
Or even teammates on the field  
Eventually those friendships bloom  
And a family is revealed  
A steppingstone into the "real world"  
With memories of a lifetime  
What was once the scariest change  
Is developing you to your prime  
Growing from just one building  
To now making the news  
Adding more clubs and associations  
All for students to chose  
By having high-end technology  
It creates endless opportunities  
At the fingertips of the students  
All to help our community

*– Brittany Hightower*

USC Union is the light house  
Palmetto College is the Fuel  
Without fuel the ship is  
Destined to crash  
Without the lighthouse  
The ship will get lost  
The storm is never ending  
Yet with the guidance of the light  
And the fuel to keep moving  
There's no worries

*– Christopher Williams*

Haiku: USC Union Opportunity

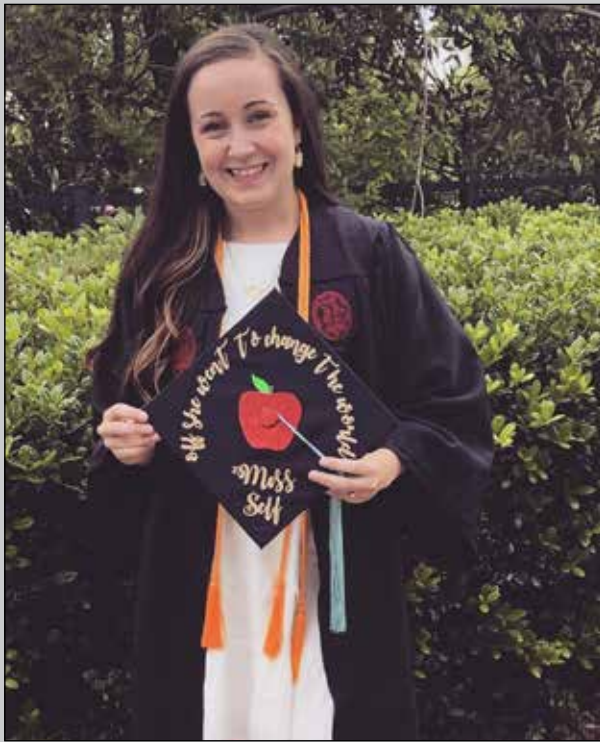
Opportunity  
Is to success as failure  
Is to progression

*– Thomas Dartez*



*Illustration by Evelyn Monteros-Vaca*

## PC Online Alumna Profile: Brooke Griffin, '17, '19, '22



### Brooke Griffin, '17, '19, '22

Associate of Science with Honors

Bachelor of Arts, Magna Cum Laude, in Elementary Education

Master of Education in Education Administration

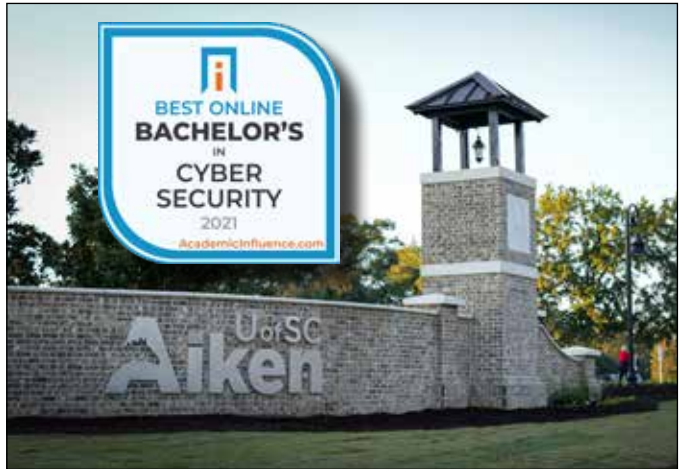
Brooke Griffin is a 2017 graduate of USC Lancaster, a 2019 graduate of the UofSC Columbia elementary education program offered through Palmetto College Online and will earn her master's degree in education administration from the UofSC Columbia College of Education in May 2022.

She is using what she has learned at USCL, within Palmetto College Online and in the University of South Carolina College of Education, to educate young minds in her home community.

Brooke was recently named 2021-22 Beginning Teacher of the Year at North Elementary in Lancaster, S.C.

### In her own words:

When choosing USCL, one of the main factors was knowing I would leave with a four year degree and not have any student loans. Coming to USCL and enrolling in Palmetto College allowed me to save money and reach my goal all while forming lifelong friendships and connections with others."



## USC Aiken online cybersecurity program ranked No. 3 in the nation

The online Bachelor of Science in Applied Computer Science program, with a cybersecurity concentration, at USC Aiken through Palmetto College has been [ranked No. 3 nationally](#) among the best online Bachelor's in Cyber Security programs in the nation at [AcademicInfluence.com](#).

AcademicInfluence.com is a team of academics and data scientists that has developed a machine-learning technology to identify and rank top academics and institutions based on influence in their fields of study.



## USC Beaufort online human services program ranked No. 10 in the nation

The online Bachelor of Arts in Human Services program at USC Beaufort through Palmetto College has been [ranked No. 10 nationally](#) among the best online bachelor's degree in human services programs in the nation at [UniversityHQ.org](#).



# USC Upstate Mary Black School of Nursing elevated to College status

## MBCON partners with Palmetto College to provide 12-month online BSN program for RNs

The Mary Black School of Nursing at the University of South Carolina Upstate, which partners with USC Palmetto College to offer an online RN-BSN nursing degree, has been elevated to college status by the University Board of Trustees and has received confirmation of notification from the S.C. Commission on Higher Education. The change is effective with the upcoming Fall 2022 term.

"This decision recognizes and celebrates the college's academic growth and impact. 'College' nomenclature better represents the size, complexity, and number of degrees offered by each unit. They will now operate on a level field with peer institutions, which will increase their visibility and support national faculty recruitment and retention," said USC Upstate Chancellor Bennie L.

Harris. "The new name aligns the unit in structure with the university's three existing colleges, create greater visibility in the community and alignment with the vision for growth at USC Upstate."

The Mary Black College of Nursing (MBCON) offers the Bachelor of Science in nursing, and the Master of Science and post-graduate certificate programs in nursing education, nursing leadership, and clinical nurse leader. The traditional pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing is a four-year track for students who wish to begin a career in professional nursing. The College also offers an RN-BSN track in partnership with Palmetto College Online for licensed registered nurses who seek to advance from an associate degree to a bachelor's degree, and a Master of Science in Nursing. Accredited by the Commission on Collegiate

Nursing Education, MBCON enrolls nearly 1,000 students and plays a vital role in curbing one of the nation's highest projected nursing shortages with the second-highest number of BSN graduates in South Carolina.

The excellent reputation of the college has been instrumental in attracting external grants. In the past year, MBCON has received nearly \$2.7 million in federal agency and private foundation grant funding to support research, scholarships, student success initiatives, and to address the nurse faculty shortage.

Congratulations to Mary Black College of Nursing Dean Shirleatha Lee, along with the MBCON faculty, staff, students, alumni, and supporters, on achieving this significant new designation.

## PC Online Alumna Profile: Mary Aguilar, '21



**Mary Aguilar, '21**

*Bachelor of Science in Nursing, USC Upstate*

**Mary Aguilar** is a 2021 RN-BSN Program graduate from Greenville, S.C., and maintained a 4.0 cumulative grade point average in her time in the program.

### **In her own words:**

I want to thank University of South Carolina Upstate/Palmetto College for the excellent education I received in the RN-BSN program. The curriculum is built to give nurses the chance to grow academically while simultaneously working in the field.

The courses I took strengthened my understanding of evidence-based practice and how to incorporate this research into strong nursing care for my patients.

Program advisor Trish Wade and program director Toshua Kennedy helped me make a seamless transition to the RN-BSN program, ensuring I kept learning during our first year in the pandemic. All my instructors were friendly, practical, and well-prepared.

I am so grateful to have studied with compassionate and competent professionals who challenged me to be a force for positive change.

Obtaining my BSN from USC Upstate expanded my career opportunities. I look forward to obtaining my OCN certification in oncology nursing to be the best nurse possible for my patients.

## PC Online Alumna Profile



### Angelia Cook-Sloop, '16

Bachelor of Science in Human Services  
USC Beaufort

Angelia Cook-Sloop began her academic work in 2009 at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College.

When asked about completing her degree at USC Beaufort, she said "I would like to give recognition to Professor Jim Glasson (my mentor), Dr. Najmah Thomas and Dr. Randy Lamkin. As their patience, guidance, and encouragement have been a guiding light in my academic journey. 'We must bring our own light to the darkness.' The Human Services program teaches us to bring our light and to illuminate others' paths as we serve those in need of service. To work in the field, and to receive my degree is a passion that is finally realized."

Cook-Sloop completed the Bachelor of Science in Human Services degree program with an overall GPA of 3.489 and a stellar USC Beaufort GPA of 3.926. She hopes to go to graduate school in the future but is seeking employment in the Human Service field first.

"I want to start a program for those in need of services. I am investigating what form of need is the greatest in my surrounding community," she said.

*Reprinted from the Fall/Winter 2016 edition of Connections.*

## PC Online Alumnus Profile



### Andrew Verma, '15, '21

Bachelor of Science in  
Business Administration, USC Aiken  
Master of Business Administration, USC Aiken

Back in 2013, Andrew Verma was working at a Wells Fargo branch location in Columbia, S.C., and needed a bachelor's degree to advance his career.

"I wanted to really advance my career at Wells Fargo, but at the same time I wanted to get my undergraduate degree. I couldn't do that because you usually have a set class schedule, and at work I have to be flexible," said Verma. "I wanted to have the best of both worlds: go to school to get a degree and also progress with Wells Fargo. When Palmetto College was launched, I was really happy – ecstatic – because graduating with the business administration degree wouldn't have been possible if Palmetto College wasn't there."

One of Palmetto College Online's earliest students, Verma completed a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree online from USC Aiken through Palmetto College Online in 2015. Earning that bachelor's degree indeed allowed him to advance.

Today, he serves as an AVP and Customer Success Team Manager in Consumer and Small Business Banking Operations for Wells Fargo. In this role, Verma and his team support thousands of customers each year nationally from Charlotte, N.C., one of the financial institution's largest cities for banking operations.

Earning an MBA from USC Aiken to complement his bachelor's degree from Aiken through Palmetto College Online was the next step in his professional and educational progression. He completed Aiken's MBA program in 2021.

"I am so grateful that Palmetto College helped me have the opportunity to pursue and complete an MBA," said Verma.

In celebration of Palmetto College's fifth anniversary in 2018, Verma was one of five alumni featured in a [video discussing their educational journeys](#), and he also appears in [15-second](#) and [30-second](#) commercials for Palmetto College Online that are broadcast on cable television and as digital pre-roll video on websites and streaming television.

*Reprinted from the Spring 2021 edition of Connections.*

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@USCPalmettoCollege



Palmetto College



## PC Online Alumnus Profile



### Bryan Carsner, '22

Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology  
Management, USC Upstate

**Hometown:**  
New Carlisle, Ohio

**Current Town:**  
LaGrange, Ga.

#### **Future Plans:**

I will begin my Project Management Professional training at Purdue University on May 7. I will be receiving my Black Belt in Lean Six Sigma from Purdue University on May 27. On May 9, I will begin a new career with Winpak as a Project Engineer. I start my master's program at Kennesaw University in Systems Engineering in the fall. My goal is to be a lifelong learner and keep moving forward academically and professionally.

#### **What my degree means to me:**

My passion for this degree cannot even begin to express how important it is to me. Thirteen years ago, I earned an associate's degree. Since then, I have been working in industrial maintenance. While obtaining my associate's degree, I worked in construction and as a short-order cook. Approximately half of my co-workers are retiring due to medical conditions. My 12-hour shifts have left me with no time for birthday parties and holidays. Despite all of this, I have continued to raise my 16-year-old daughter. As a result of this degree, I will not have to wait until my body gives out before retirement. By getting this degree, I will not miss important events again and again. This degree will allow me to demonstrate to my daughter how hard work is rewarded. By earning this degree, I have exhibited my ability to be a professional engineer. As a result of my degree, I am no longer just a variable in someone else's equation; I can now create the equations. By earning this degree, I have demonstrated that I am more valuable than I imagined when I started the ETM program.

## Four new Palmetto College Online degree offerings debut in Fall 2022

Palmetto College Online launched in 2013 with seven online bachelor's degree completion programs from USC Aiken, USC Beaufort, UofSC Columbia and USC Upstate.

Palmetto College Online will enter its tenth year of service with 24 degree programs and concentrations in partnership with the Aiken, Beaufort, Columbia and Upstate campuses.

The four newest programs will begin offering online coursework to Palmetto College Online students beginning in the Fall 2022 semester.

These new programs include the **Bachelor of Arts in Emerging Media** through USC Aiken; the **Bachelor of Arts in Public Health** through USC Beaufort; the **Bachelor of Arts in English** through USC Upstate; and the **Bachelor of Arts in Communications with a public relations concentration** from USC Upstate.

From USC Aiken, prospective Palmetto College Online students are able to finish a B.S. in Applied Computer Science with a cybersecurity concentration; a B.S. in Business Administration with an accounting concentration; a B.S. in Business Administration with a management concentration; a B.A. in Communication; a B.A. in Emerging Media; a B.S. in Psychology; and a B.A. in Special Education.

From USC Beaufort, prospective Palmetto College Online students can complete a B.S. in Hospitality Management; a B.S. in Human Services; a B.A. in Psychology; a B.A. in Public Health; a B.S. in Public Health; and a B.A. in Sociology.

From UofSC Columbia, prospective Palmetto College Online students are able to finish a B.A. in Elementary Education; B.A. in Liberal Studies; and B.A. in Organizational Leadership.

From USC Upstate, prospective Palmetto College Online students are able to complete a B.A. in Communications with a public relations concentration; a B.S. in Criminal Justice; a B.A. in Criminal Justice with a concentration in crime analysis; a B.S. in Engineering Technology Management; a B.A. in English; a B.A. in Health Informatics; a B.A. in Information Management and Systems; and a B.S. in Nursing for registered nurses;

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.

# Palmetto College Bookshelf

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.

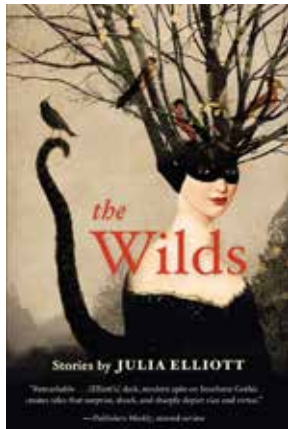
Listed herein are books from Palmetto College faculty that cover short stories, novels, poetry, nonfiction essays,

history, sociology, social science, political science and popular culture – among other topics.

The four most recent releases include: [\*Obscene Gestures: Counter-Narratives of Sex and Race in the Twentieth Century\*](#) (Fordham University Press, June 2022) by Patrick Lawrence, USC Lancaster; [\*The Life and Comics of Howard Cruse: Taking Risks in the Service of Truth\*](#) (Rutgers University Press, 2021) by Andrew Kunka, USC Sumter; [\*The Slow\*](#)

[\*Undoing: The Federal Courts and the Long Struggle for Civil Rights in South Carolina\*](#) (University of South Carolina Press, 2021) by Stephen H. Lowe, USC Union/Palmetto College Columbia; and [\*Lily Watch\*](#) (Seven Kitchen Press, 2021) by Lisa Hammond, USC Lancaster.

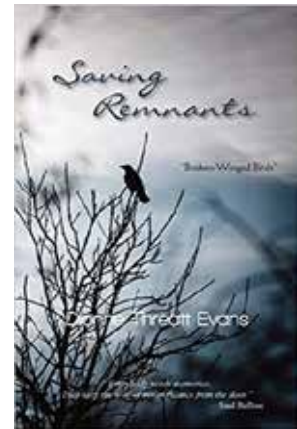
*The Slow Undoing* was recently announced as the winner of the George C. Rogers Jr. Award for the best book of South Carolina history published in 2021.



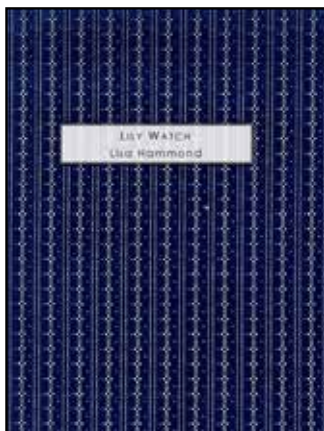
Julia Elliott  
[\*The Wilds\*](#)  
ISBN [9781935639923](#)



Julia Elliott  
[\*The New and Improved Romie Futch\*](#)  
ISBN [9781941040157](#)



Dianne Threatt Evans  
[\*Saving Remnants\*](#)  
ISBN [1608806723](#)



Lisa Hammond  
[\*Lily Watch\*](#)



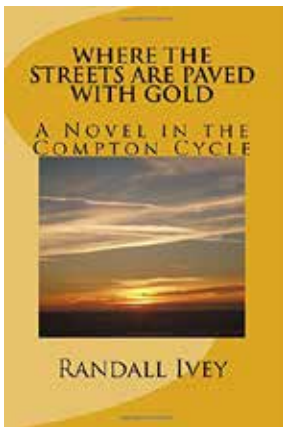
Lisa Hammond  
[\*Goddess Suite\*](#)



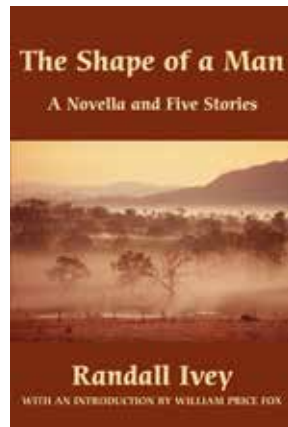
Lisa Hammond  
[\*Moving House: Poems\*](#)  
ISBN [978-1-933896-08-3](#)

2006 Robert Phillips Chapbook Prize

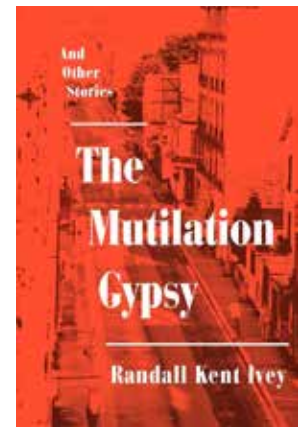




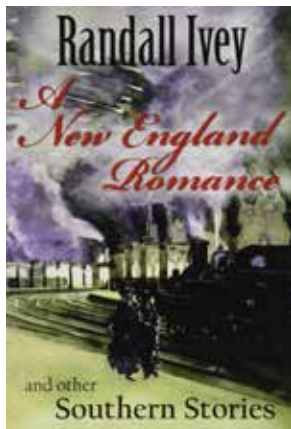
Randall Ivey  
[\*Where the Streets are Paved with Gold: A Novel in the Compton Cycle\*](#)  
 ISBN [9781519261038](#)



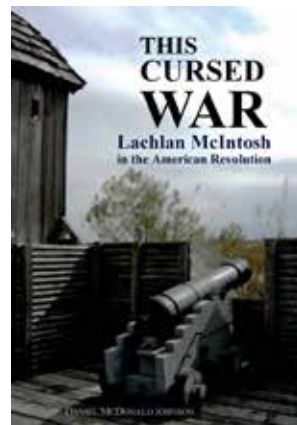
Randall Ivey  
[\*The Shape of a Man: A Novella and Five Stories\*](#)  
 ISBN [9780595221288](#)



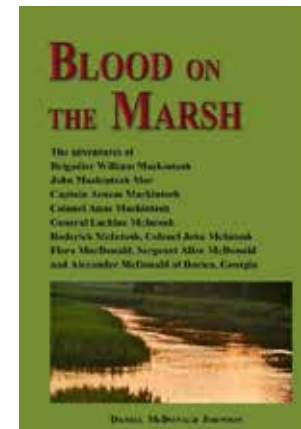
Randall Ivey  
[\*The Mutilation Gypsy: And Other Stories\*](#)  
 ISBN [9781469724010](#)



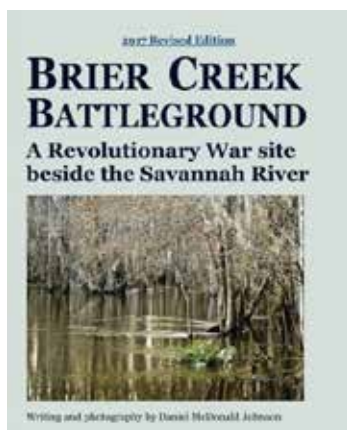
Randall Ivey  
[\*A New England Romance and other Southern Stories\*](#)  
 ISBN [9780997939309](#)



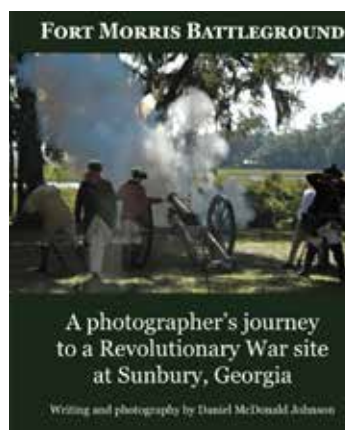
Daniel McDonald Johnson  
[\*The Cursed War: Lachlan McIntosh in the American Revolution\*](#)  
 ISBN [978-167400127](#)



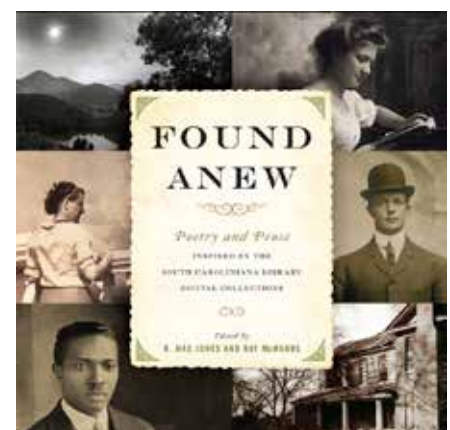
Daniel McDonald Johnson  
[\*Blood on the Marsh\*](#)  
 ISBN [978-1500602819](#)



Daniel McDonald Johnson  
[\*Brier Creek Battleground: A Revolutionary War Site beside the Savannah River\*](#)  
 ISBN [978-1542345927](#)



Daniel McDonald Johnson  
[\*Fort Morris Battleground\*](#)  
 ISBN [978-1505495867](#)



R. Mac Jones and Ray McManus (Eds.)  
[\*Found Anew: Poetry and Prose Inspired by the South Caroliniana Library Digital Collections\*](#)  
 ISBN [978-1-61117-564-6](#)

# Palmetto College Bookshelf



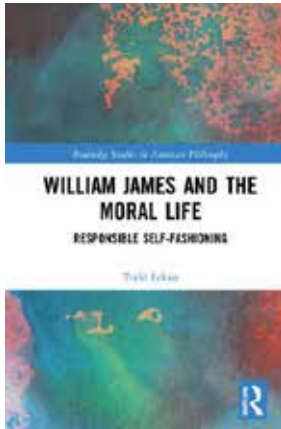
Andrew J. Kunka  
[\*Autobiographical Comics\*](#)  
ISBN 9781474227858



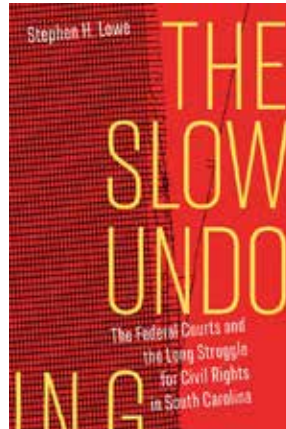
Andrew J. Kunka  
[\*The Life and Comics of Howard Cruse: Taking Risks in the Service of Truth\*](#)  
ISBN 9781978818859



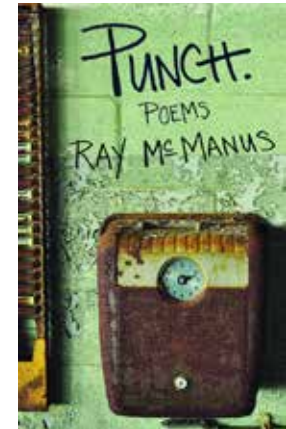
Patrick Lawrence  
[\*Obscene Gestures: Counter-Narratives of Sex and Race in the Twentieth Century\*](#)  
ISBN 978-1531500092



Todd Lekan  
[\*William James and the Moral Life: Responsible Self-Fashioning\*](#)  
ISBN 9781032221649

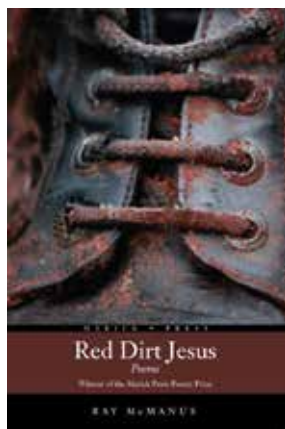


Stephen H. Lowe  
[\*The Slow Undoing\*](#)  
ISBN 978-1-64336-205-2



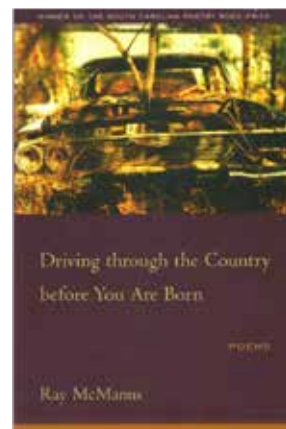
Ray McManus  
[\*Punch.\*](#)  
ISBN 978-1938235078

2021 George C. Rogers Jr. Award

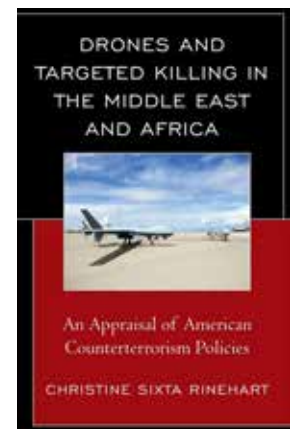


Ray McManus  
[\*Red Dirt Jesus: Poems\*](#)  
ISBN 978-1-934851-32-6

Marick Press Poetry Prize Winner

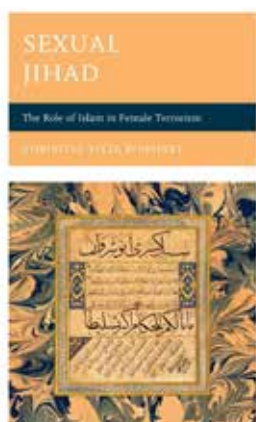


Ray McManus  
[\*Driving Through the Country before You Are Born: Poems\*](#)  
ISBN 978-1570037023

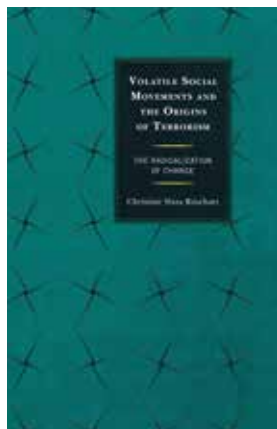


Christine Sixta Rinehart  
[\*Targeted Killing in the Middle East: An Appraisal of American Counterterrorism Policies\*](#)  
ISBN 978-1-4985-2649-4





Christine Sixta Rinehart  
[\*Sexual Jihad: The Role of Islam in Female Terrorism\*](#)  
 ISBN [978-1-4985-5751-1](#)



Christine Sixta Rinehart  
[\*Volatile Social Movements and the Origins of Terrorism: The Radicalization of Change\*](#)  
 ISBN [978-0-7391-9732-5](#)

*Submit your own books, and we will maintain an updated complete listing of books authored and edited by Palmetto College faculty and staff in this space in future issues.*



The **University of South Carolina Palmetto College Board of Visitors** convened in May 2022 at USC Sumter for their biannual meeting. The board members are advocates who represent the interests and the surrounding communities of the individual USC Palmetto College Campuses, Palmetto College Columbia and Palmetto College Online.

