

University of South Carolina Palmetto College

CONNECTIONS

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Fall 2023/Spring 2024



**Palmetto College Campuses Athletics:
A winning tradition**





**Please submit all items for the Fall/
Winter 2024 edition no later than
Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2024.**

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:

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About the Cover:

This issue's cover highlights the winning tradition and recent victories of the athletic programs at the regional University of South Carolina Palmetto College campuses.

The **USC Salkehatchie Men's Basketball Team** (pictured on the front cover and above) won the 2024 NJCAA Division I Region 10 Championship and advanced to the first round of the NJCAA National Tournament. First-year Coach Matt Lynch was named NJCAA Atlantic Coach of the Year at the national tournament. In the picture above, the players are congratulated by USC Board of Trustees Member Alex English (center in blue shirt), an All-American from USC, eight-time NBA All-Star and former NBA coach.

In addition to the basketball victory, the **USC Lancaster Lancers Women's Soccer Team** won its NJCAA Region 10 Championship.

The **USC Sumter Fire Ants Women's and Men's Tennis Teams** competed in their respective national tournaments in May 2024.

In Mila Mzamane, a member of the **USC Union Men's Soccer Team** and NJCAA Region 10 Player of the Year, became the institution's first NJCAA Division I All-American.

FEATURE STORIES



Salkehatchie Men's Basketball wins NJCAA Region 10 Championship



USCL Women's Soccer Team wins its first Region 10 Championship title



Fire Ants compete in NJCAA D1 Women's Tennis National Championship Tournament

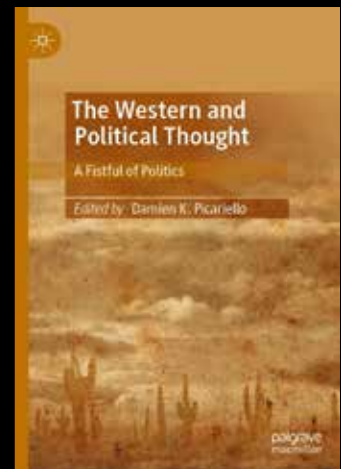


Mila Mzamane is the first NJCAA Division I All-American from USC Union



2023-24 Palmetto College Excellence Awards honor individual faculty teaching, service and scholarship

New books by Palmetto College faculty



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Palmetto College: A winning tradition

Celebrating “winning traditions” are a fundamental aspect of higher education, and in other areas of life. We celebrate the success of our students as they matriculate and graduate from our Palmetto College Campuses and Palmetto College Online.

In this issue of Palmetto College Connections magazine we celebrate many within Palmetto College for their respective “wins,” particularly within the arena of intercollegiate athletics.

We celebrate our faculty for their stellar research and outstanding teaching acumen. This publication highlights many of these accomplishments, including an updated bibliography of books and screenplays written and edited by faculty across our Palmetto College Campuses.

We celebrate our staff for their steadfast support of our students, faculty and each other in advancing the mission of the University of South Carolina Palmetto College. And we look forward to the impending launch of the Palmetto College Campuses Staff Senate.

We also celebrate the supporters and donors who value what we do and the impact that we have in our respective Palmetto College campus communities. Their support enables us to grow our campuses in terms of scholarship support and expansion of the physical

plants of our campuses as well.

We celebrate our student-athletes as they bring home wins and championships on the courts and fields of play, as well as their academic successes.

Congratulations to the USC Salkehatchie Men’s Basketball Team on winning the NJCAA Division 1



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

Region 10 and Atlantic District Championships this spring! The team advanced to the 2023-24 NJCAA D1 National Championship Tournament this week and performed exceedingly well on the national stage!

Additionally, congratulations to first-year USC Salkehatchie Men’s Basketball Coach Matt Lynch on being named the 2024 NJCAA D1 Atlantic District Coach of the Year! It is especially significant given that Coach Lynch has rebuilt the program and made it to the national tournament with a freshman-only roster.

Congratulations to the USC Lancaster Women’s Soccer Team, led by Coach Kenny Halas, on winning the NJCAA Division 1 Region 10 Championship this past fall! This championship run was significant in that it was the first region tournament championship title in the institution’s history for the women’s soccer team. The win allowed the Lancers to advance to the NJCAA Southeast District Championship

Tournament.

Congratulations to the USC Sumter Women’s and Men’s Tennis Teams, led by Coach Andrew Bartelmo, on competing at a high level at their respective NJCAA Division 1 National Tournaments in Texas this spring!

Congratulations to USC Union in fielding its first NJCAA Division 1 All-American athlete! Freshman soccer player Mila Mzamane has been named a third-team All-American NJCAA Division 1 player. In addition, he was named NJCAA Region 10 Player of the Year, and he was first in the nation for assists in NJCAA Division 1.

The athletic programs at each our Palmetto College Campuses have a rich tradition of engaging our student-athletes, preparing them for leadership on the fields and courts of play, and for the successful lives and careers after they complete their matriculation on our campuses.

We are proud of these winning ways, and we look forward to more victories in all endeavors for USC Lancaster, USC Salkehatchie, USC Sumter, USC Union, Palmetto College Columbia and Palmetto College Online!

FOREVER TO THEE!



Lynch named NJCAA Atlantic District Coach of the Year

The University of South Carolina Salkehatchie Men's Basketball Coach **Matt Lynch** has been named the 2024 NJCAA Division 1 Atlantic District Coach of the year.

A first-year head coach, Lynch engineered an incredible season for Salkehatchie with the youngest team in the conference and a freshman-only roster, finishing the season with a 20-14 record and a Region 10 Tournament Championship. His team advanced to the first round of the NJCAA National Tournament.

“What a well-deserved honor for Coach Lynch to be named Atlantic District Coach of the Year! Since Coach Lynch began at USC Salkehatchie in December 2022, he has worked relentlessly to develop not only our men's basketball program, but more importantly, the young men who play for him,” said USC Salkehatchie Campus Dean **April Cone**. “I couldn't be more excited that his hard work is being recognized in this manner. Coach Lynch's leadership, work ethic, and perseverance are second to none, and I am extremely proud of him and his entire team for their accomplishments.”

The NJCAA recognized Lynch with a plaque during the national tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas.





Salkehatchie Men's Basketball wins NJCAA Region 10 Championship

The USC Salkehatchie Men's Basketball Team, comprised entirely of freshmen and led by first-time, first-year Head Coach **Matt Lynch**, won the NJCAA Division I Region 10 Championship in March 2024.

The team advanced to compete in the first round of the 2023-24 NJCAA D1 National Championship Tournament.

"It's been a dream come true being able to coach this group this season. We've proven that Region 10 once again will go through USC Salkehatchie," Coach Lynch said.

"Getting to Kansas was something we talked about all year. Upon getting there, we are convinced that we belong. We came out ready to play and competed for a full 40 minutes. We are probably three-to-four plays better than what we showed, and ultimately those three-to-four plays are the difference in winning or going home in the national tournament."

USC Salkehatchie finished the 2023-24 season with a 20-14 record and a Region 10 Tournament Championship.



The USC Salkehatchie Men's Basketball Team, comprised of freshman-only roster, was recognized by the South Carolina Legislature on April 25, 2024, for their NJCAA Region 10 Championship. In addition, first-year, first-time Coach Matt Lynch was honored as the 2024 NJCAA Division I Atlantic District Coach of the year. See [S.C. House Resolution 5397](#).

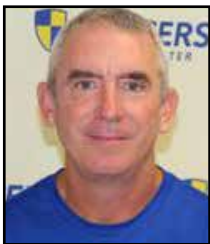


USCL Women's Soccer Team wins its first Region 10 Championship title

The USC Lancaster Lancers Women's Soccer Team, led by Coach **Kenny Halas**, won the NJCAA Division I Region 10 Championship in October 2023. This was the first region tournament championship title for the Lancers women's soccer team in the institution's history.

The Lancers advanced to the NJCAA Southeast District Championship Tournament where they defeated Georgia Military College in the semi-final round, before falling short to eventual NJCAA Division I National Tournament runner-up Eastern Florida State College in the district championship tournament finals.

"This has been an accomplishment that we have been building towards over the last few years," said Coach Halas.



Kenny Halas

"The players we brought into the program three-to-four years ago set the foundation to compete at the national level."

"Last season," he continued, "we tied for the region regular season title and continued our path to the tournament finals each of our four seasons together at the program. This win clearly elevated our program to the next level in our journey. We really feel like we have built this the right way with a focus on each player's goals in life and that leads to the success of the team on the field."



Fire Ants compete in NJCAA D1 Women's Tennis National Championship Tournament

The USC Sumter Fire Ants Women's Tennis Team, led by Coach **Andrew Bartelmo**, competed in the NJCAA Division I National Championship Tournament in Tyler, Texas, in early May 2024.

Mary Catherine Cameron won her first round at number 4 singles. She and Anna Grubbs had a first-round doubles win versus Paradise Valley Community College. Anna Grubbs won her consolation bracket semi-final match against Paradise Valley 8-5. Maeva Chambon and Serena Alvarado had doubles wins against McHenry County College and Collin College. Serena Alvarado had a singles win versus McHenry County College. Laura Kotala made the consolation finals at five singles. She had wins against McHenry and Copiah-Lincoln Community College.



Andrew Bartelmo

By the beginning of May 2024, the Fire Ants men's tennis team is ranked No. 10 nationally. One of its members, Gian Rojas Rodriguez, is nationally ranked in the top 10 individuals.

The men competed in the NJCAA DI National Championship Tournament in Plano, Texas, in mid-May 2024. The Fire Ants baseball team are the runners-up of the NJCAA Division I Baseball Conference Tournament.



Mila Mzamane is the first NJCAA Division I All-American from USC Union

Freshman USC Union soccer player **Mila Mzamane** has been named a third-team All-American for NJCAA Division I, making history as the first All-American from the institution.

He was named Region 10 Player of the Year this season and was first in the nation for assists in Division I. Mzamane said that he did not anticipate such achievements for his first year in college. “At first, I expected to settle in and get used to my new surroundings,” he said.

Mzamanes biggest challenge was learning how the playing style here in America is different from his home of Johannesburg, South Africa. “In Europe and Africa there is more buildup and pacing,” he said. “Here, it’s very fast, nonstop, you play really quickly for 90 minutes.”

Through hard work with Head Coach **Marc Curlee** and Assistant Coach **Zach Curlee**, Mzamane gained more confidence each week of the season. “You try to work hard and hopefully it pays off. Talent can’t be everything,” he said. “I could not have done it without my coaches and teammates.”

Mzamane is excited to celebrate with his family when he goes home for winter break. He says that his late uncle, Pete Jacobs, was his biggest inspiration in pursuing soccer.



Mila Mzamane

“He tried to become a professional footballer and [inspired me] with the stories he told,” said Mzamane. “I already knew I loved the sport, but he put it in perspective for me. Football was his escape from life. It’s the same thing for me – when I am on the field, all problems go away.”

“Mila was a standout this year. He is a good player and a good student. This award is well-deserved and is a step in the right direction for the program,” said Head Coach Curlee.

“Mila is such a great young man and this award is great for him and for our university,” said USC Union Athletic Director **Zach Simmons**. “Mila is talked about mainly for his athletic ability on the field, but he is also one of the nicest and most respectful young men that I have had the pleasure of being around. This award can take him so far in life, but the respect and kindness that he shows to others is what will carry him into his bright future.”



2023-24 Palmetto College Excellence Awards honor individual faculty teaching, service and scholarship

Three faculty members were honored for their extraordinary excellence in teaching, service, and scholarship, respectively, with the top three awards presented to faculty across the Palmetto College Campuses at the April 21, 2024, meeting of the Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate.



Dana Lawrence, associate professor of English at USC Lancaster, is the 2023-24 recipient of the **John J. Duffy Excellence in Teaching Award for Palmetto College Campuses**.

The Duffy Award is presented to a faculty member for exemplary dedication and commitment to students and their academic success.

With attention to detail, Lawrence crafts dynamic and continually evolving courses that offer unique and enriching experiences for her students. By viewing writing as a process rather than a mere product, she incorporates scaffolded

assignments, multiple drafts, and pre-writing exercises, guiding her students along a path to academic growth. In addition, Lawrence integrates multi-modal assignments to foster student creativity and deepen their engagement with the course material.

Encouraging true student growth without the fixation on a single grade, she implements holistic grading and specifications/contract grading. To promote effective revision and student accountability, Lawrence emphasizes self-review over mandatory peer review. Additionally, she provides regular practice and feedback on low-stakes assignments to identify student struggles early on.

Beyond her role as an educator, Lawrence serves as an active mentor and guide to her students. She facilitates independent research projects, has accompanied a student to present their work at the Children’s Literature Association Conference, and has also assisted in expanding their paper for journal submission.

PC Excellence Awards, continued on page 12

Lawrence's commitment to excellence extends beyond the classroom, as she effectively integrates scholarship and teaching by presenting research, inspired by course materials and themes, at academic conferences. Furthermore, she is committed to continuous professional development, participating in metacognition-focused workshops to enhance teaching strategies and improve student learning outcomes.



David Dangerfield, associate professor of history at USC Salkehatchie, is the **2023-24 recipient of the Chris P. Plyler Excellence in Service Award for Palmetto College Campuses.**

The Plyler Award is presented to a faculty member who personifies excellence in service to the campus, university, community and profession. Dangerfield's work spans all four areas of service.

His contributions to his campus include serving as Chair of the Recruiting Committee, effectively engaging faculty in building community visibility, and organizing faculty involvement in press releases and recruiting events. Additionally, Dangerfield's leadership as an informal chair and organizer for the Dean's Advisory Council meetings has been invaluable. He has made significant contributions to various campus committees, including Academic Appeals and Petitions, Tenure and Promotion, and Faculty Organization Award citations.

At the system level, Dangerfield has promoted faculty interests while serving on the Palmetto College Faculty Senate Executive Committee, and, as Secretary, has actively engaged in meetings and prepared thorough meeting minutes. Representing USC Salkehatchie on the Palmetto College Provost's Academic Advisory Committee, he has been a strong advocate for faculty and student concerns relating to tenure, promotion, and research. His involvement in the GHS Carolina Core Specialty Team has been extremely valuable, as he has collaborated on course assessment instruments and processes in preparation for the SACS accreditation review. Dangerfield has also served on grant review committees for the USC Vice President for Research EXCEL Grant program,

contributing to the rigorous evaluation and selection process.

In his community, Dangerfield has engaged in public-facing scholarship through public lectures, community forums, and historical society talks, all in efforts to enhance community outreach initiatives. He has generously devoted his time and expertise while providing volunteer consulting services for local organizations such as the South Carolina State Museum and the Allendale County SC250 Committee, supporting historical research and interpretation endeavors. Furthermore, he has actively participated in citizen advisory committees for the City of Barnwell, providing input on the distribution of federal funds and community development projects. He has also moderated public forums for the South Carolina Humanities Council's "Just Sharing" series, fostering dialogue and engagement within the community.

Dangerfield's professional service is equally impressive, serving as a book review editor for H-SC and making significant contributions to scholarly discourse within the academic community. In addition, his involvement with the EC Foundation Board of Directors has played a crucial role in supporting higher education initiatives and fostering alumni community engagement.



Justin Mogilski, associate professor of psychology at USC Salkehatchie, is the **2023-24 recipient of the Denise R. Shaw Excellence in Scholarship Award for Palmetto College Campuses.**

The Shaw Award is presented to a faculty member who exhibits outstanding scholarly research or creative achievement.

Mogilski has demonstrated a record of outstanding scholarship. Through his establishment of an innovative research program focusing on evolutionary influences on intimate relationships, he has delved into the intricate dynamics of human connection. His exploration spans various aspects, from conflict resolution to moral decision-making, shedding light on individual differences in relationship behaviors. One of Mogilski's most significant

achievements lies in his development and validation of the Multi-Partner Relationship Maintenance Scale (MRMS). This groundbreaking, comprehensive psychometric inventory was developed in partnership with an international team of sexuality and relationship scholars. Mogilski has also developed an online experimental diary study aimed at longitudinally assessing the impact of educational interventions based on MRMS practices on relationship functioning. This endeavor seeks to establish evidence for causality.

Furthermore, his scholarly output is nothing short of impressive, with eight manuscripts published in high-impact psychological journals and handbooks within the last three years, such as *Evolution and Human Behavior* and *Frontiers in Psychology*. Such publications, cited 889 times, have an h-index of 15, which places him in the top 1% of psychology faculty. In addition, his dedication to scholarly work is evident by the acquisition of seven competitive grants, including an ASPIRE-I: Innovation grant, and his submission of two NSF CAREER grants to further advance the boundaries of evolutionary psychology.

Mogilski's extraordinary scholarship has not gone unnoticed. He received the Breakthrough Star Award from the USC Office of the Vice President for Research for his significant contributions to the field. Beyond academia, Mogilski's influence extends globally, with features through news outlets, podcasts, and invited talks at prestigious institutions and conferences worldwide, including HBES and NEEPS. He has also co-edited "The Oxford Handbook of Evolutionary Psychology and Romantic Relationships" with Todd Shackelford, which offers a comprehensive resource for researchers, graduate students, and advanced undergraduates. Mogilski's impact extends beyond his own research, as evidenced by his mentorship of four research assistants who have embarked on their own scholarly journeys. Through his guidance and support, each has received funding to support their research endeavors, including a Magellan Scholar Award, three USC Magellan Mini-grants, and a USC PURE grant.

USC Regional Palmetto College Campuses announce Teacher of the Year Awards



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

Susan Cruise
Associate Professor of Sociology



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

Ahron Mack
Instructor of Communications



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

Christopher Defossez
Assistant Professor of Psychology



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

Steven Lownes
Associate Professor of World
Languages



Sahar Aghasafari, assistant professor of art and graphic design at USC Lancaster, successfully designed an impressive

collection of 12 book covers, including five captivating covers for children’s books, six engaging covers for educational books and a visually appealing cover for a notebook.

She published “[Virtual visual arts integration and biology: More favor or challenges for emergent bi/multilingual high schoolers](#)” in the *Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies in Education*, 12(1), 44-61, and was a corresponding author for a peer-reviewed article, “[Exploring page layout principles in Iranian manuscripts: A comprehensive review from Seljuk to Safavid Era](#),” in *IDA: International Design and Art Journal*, 5(2), 176-190.



Aghasafari also partnered with **Bridgett Plexico**, internship coordinator at USC Lancaster, to organize an exclusive event in September 2023 targeting

enthusiastic students interested in the graphic design internship at Lancaster County Courthouse.

Aghasafari was accepted to Signature Membership (Juried) at the National Association of Women Artists Inc. (NAWA), 2023, and she also participated in an online group exhibition, “[Persian Tigress Serenade: The Velvet Bond](#).”

She served as a reviewer for International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE24), 2023.

She was invited to review proposals for the ISTE 24 conference, backed by the largest and most competitive educational technology journal, *International Society for Technology in Education*. Her role involves evaluating proposals on educational technology.

Aghasafari has also been invited to review papers in the STEAM field for the *Science Education Journal*.

She is also a 2024 Research Initiative for Summer Engagement (RISE) Grant

recipient for a summer project entitled “ChemArtistry: Integrating Media Arts into the Study of Fundamental Chemistry.”



Connor Austell, assistant professor of music at USC Lancaster, and **Erin Moon-Kelly**, adjunct professor of music at USC Lancaster, performed in

a recital organized by the Lancaster County Council of the Arts on March 17 at Christ Episcopal Church. The event featured a variety of musical styles, including some Irish tunes in celebration of Saint Patrick’s Day.



Mason Barr, IT assistant within Palmetto College central administration, has added a new role with his appointment as digital media

coordinator for Palmetto College. In addition to his responsibilities with Palmetto College IT, his new responsibilities will include photography, videography and digital content creation.



Mary Ellen Bellanca, professor of English and R.J. “Chic” Mathis Professor of Arts and Letters, at USC Sumter, presented a paper

titled “Liberating Genre: Dorothy Wordsworth’s Poems in Multimedia Adaptations; or, Dorothy Wordsworth on YouTube” to the British Women Writers Conference in May 2023.

Bellanca had an article, titled “J. C. Shaipr [“sharp”] and the Victorian Publication of Dorothy Wordsworth’s ‘Recollections of a Tour Made in Scotland’” accepted for publication by the journal *Studies in Scottish Literature*.

She is also a 2024 Research Initiative for Summer Engagement (RISE) Grant recipient for a summer project entitled

“Manuscript Documents on Dorothy Wordsworth’s ‘Recollections of a Tour Made in Scotland’.”



Marybeth Lee Berry, associate professor of theatre and speech at USC Lancaster, was invited to not only teach “The Expressive Athletic Method”

at the 19th Annual Theatre for Change Festival in Athens, Greece, but also along with **Tyrie K. Rowell**, financial aid counselor, loan coordinator and adjunct instructor of technical theatre at USC Lancaster,

students and alumni presented the international premiere of the devised performance piece, “The Blur,” as part of the longstanding festival.

Berry will also be presenting her creative work, “The Puzzle: A Reading of a New Musical” at Edwards Theater on the campus of Coastal Carolina University on May 10-11. Alex Lefevre, music director in the theater department at Coastal Carolina, is the music composer for the piece.



Shelby Broomfield has been hired as director of the [Salkehatchie Leadership Institute](#) at USC Salkehatchie (SLI). She is

also a 2019 graduate of the Leadership Salkehatchie program. SLI was established to stimulate economic development in Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton, Jasper, Beaufort and Hampton Counties. The Barnwell County native previously served as program director for the Dreams Imagination & Gift Development Program (DIG), a nonprofit that served the Barnwell County area, and as a community outreach associate with the S.C. Coalition for Mathematics and Science (SCCMS) through Clemson University. During her time with DIG

and SCCMS, she was responsible for creating STEM education opportunities and STEM partnerships in the Salkehatchie region.

Broomfield is a graduate of the S.C. Afterschool Leaders Empowerment Program (2022) and the Women's Leadership Institute at Furman University (2021). She earned her Master of Public Administration degree from South University.



Michael T. Brown, adjunct music faculty at USC Sumter, directed the Midlands Light Opera Society's inaugural performance

of Gilbert and Sullivan's "Trial by Jury" and Offenbach's "The Dramatic Criminals" in August 2023.

He launched a blog, "[Offenbach to the Future](#)," in December 2023 on the importance of community light opera organizations within the larger operatic and musical world.

He also directed music for the Midlands Light Opera Society's fully-staged production of Gilbert and Sullivan's "Patience" in February 2024.



Carl Locklin Brunson Sr., retired adjunct professor of mathematics at USC Salkehatchie, died on Jan. 7, 2024, at age 96.

The Barton, S.C., native graduated from Allendale High School and studied at Clemson University for a year before being drafted to the U.S. Army. He served in Germany during World War II before accepting an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. As a West Point cadet, he was a three-time All-American and recognized as one of the premier gymnasts in the East capturing the Eastern College Athletic Conference championships in 1950.

Brunson became a fighter pilot in the nascent U.S. Air Force and, early in his military career, he earned a master's degree in aeronautical engineering from the University of Michigan. During his flying career, he served at Nellis

Air Force Base, and flew hundreds of missions in Korea, Europe and Vietnam. He received numerous commendations and recognitions throughout his military flying career including, but not limited to, two Legion Merit awards, Distinguished Flying Cross award, eight Air Medal awards, and two Air Force Commendation Medals. Col. Brunson was also instrumental in developing and commanding several training schools for pilots throughout his career.

Retiring from a 36-year military career as a full Colonel from Randolph Air Force Base, Brunson joined Lockheed Missiles and Space Corporation helping to structure and train pilots in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Following his retirement from Lockheed, he returned to Allendale County and started several business ventures to keep busy.

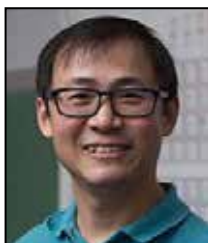
He taught mathematics as an adjunct at USC Salkehatchie's Allendale campus for nearly 20 years, beginning in 1992. He also worked as a regional asbestos inspector for surrounding school districts. He fully retired at age 91. Col. Brunson is survived by his three children, nine grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.



Francis Burns, assistant professor of chemistry at USC Salkehatchie, is the recipient of the 2024 USC Distinguished Research Service Award. The

USC Office of the Vice President for Research created the award to recognize USC faculty members who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to our internal research programs.

Burns is also a 2024 Research Initiative for Summer Engagement (RISE) Grant recipient for a summer project entitled "Student Retention and Success in the USC Salkehatchie Rural Nursing Initiative."



Li Cai, professor of chemistry at USC Lancaster, co-authored an article, "[Therapeutic potential of oncolytic viruses in the era of](#)

[precision oncology](#)," in *Biomaterials Translational* 2023(4), 67-84.

Cai and **Sahar Aghasafari**, assistant professor of art and graphic design at USC Lancaster, submitted a grant, "ChemArtistry: Integrating Media Arts into the Study of Fundamental Chemistry."



The late USC Sumter Dean Emeritus **C. Leslie "Les" Carpenter**, who led the campus from 1993 to 2012, is the namesake of the newly renovated

campus auditorium in USC Sumter's Nettles Building.

During his 19 years at the helm of USC Sumter, Carpenter expanded the bachelor's degree offerings from three to five, re-instituted intercollegiate athletics, and served as the president of the American Association of University Administration. After over 30 years in the education field, [he retired in 2012](#).

Funding for the campus auditorium was made possible by several donors. Many USC Sumter staff members donated through the Family Fund, along with the Glenmore and May Sharp Trust. Mid-Carolina Commission helped the campus utilize Sumter County funding. The Williams Brice Edwards Charitable Trust, longtime friend and supporter of USC Sumter, gave significant contributions to the renovation. Finally, an anonymous donor came forward to support the auditorium renovations and maintenance through a naming opportunity by naming the auditorium in memory of Carpenter.



John Catalano, associate provost of Palmetto College, retired in December 2023. In addition to his role as associate provost, the Distinguished

Professor Emeritus and Regional Campus Dean Emeritus has had the distinction of leading four of the five Palmetto College Campuses during his

Catalano, continued on page 16

Catalano, continued from page 15

career, including USC Lancaster, USC Union, USC Salkehatchie and Extended University (now Palmetto College Columbia).

A four-time University of South Carolina alumnus, he earned a B.A. in Philosophy, and M.L. in Librarianship, an M.A. in Philosophy and a Ph.D. in Philosophy. In 2020, the South Carolina House of Representatives honored him with a House Resolution for his service to USC Union.



Courtney Catledge, director of the USC Lancaster BSN Collaborative Program, has been appointed interim campus dean at USC Lancaster, effective Jan. 2, 2024.



Sher Chhetri, assistant professor of mathematics at USC Sumter, reviewed a manuscript for the *Journal of Applied Science and Engineering*

(JASE) in August 2023. He also reviewed a manuscript for the *Annals of Data Science* (AODS) in August 2023.

Chhetri presented a paper entitled “Some Generalized Family of Probability Distributions” at the Carolina Math Seminar (Fall MAA State Dinner at Allen University, Columbia, S.C.) in November 2023.

He co-authored an article, titled “[Parameter Estimation for Geometric Lévy Processes with Constant Volatility](#),” in the *Annals of Data Science* journal.

Chhetri had a manuscript accepted for presentation and publication at the Computing Conference to be held in London, UK, in July 2024: Chhetri, S., Toussaint, M., Mdziniso, N. & Hillman, R. (2024). A Comparison of Student Engagement Across Three Teaching Modalities in an Introductory Statistics Course, Computing Conference 2024. The proceedings of the conference will be published in the Springer series “Lecture Notes in Networks and Systems.”



Marlene Clark, custodian at USC Lancaster, retired in January 2024.



Walter P. Collins III, USC Lancaster campus dean and professor of French and English, has been selected as the new executive vice chancellor

of academic and student affairs and associate provost of USC Palmetto College, and began serving in the role at the beginning of 2024.

Collins, **Todd Lekan**, associate dean of academic and student affairs and professor of philosophy at USC Lancaster, and **Asheley Schryer**, director of student success and retention at USC Lancaster, presented “Our Game Plan for Enhancing the Experience of Student Athletes on a Regional Branch Campus” in June 2023 at the Annual Meeting of the Regional Branch Campus Administrators Conference (RBCA) in Longboat Key, Fla.

In January 2024, Collins was honored as the 2023 Volunteer of the Year by the Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce.

He also served as commencement speaker for the Spring 2024 commencement exercises at USC Lancaster.



April Cone, campus dean at USC Salkehatchie, participated in a Topper Site excavation in summer 2023, [the first at the site in nearly](#)

[10 years](#). The Topper Site, which is located around 15 miles from USC Salkehatchie’s Allendale campus on the Savannah River, is significant in that artifacts excavated from the location seem to indicate human habitation of North America much earlier than previously believed.



Chelsea Corbett, academic adviser at Palmetto College Columbia, was selected for induction as an honorary member of the University of South Carolina

Chapter, the Upsilon Zeta, of Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society for her support of nontraditional students in the Liberal Studies, Organizational Leadership and online Elementary Education bachelor’s degree programs.



Stephen Criswell, professor of English and director of Native American studies at USC Lancaster, was recently awarded a grant from the

USC Racial Justice and Equity Fund to conduct documentation of cultural traditions and oral histories among South Carolina’s recognized tribes. In December 2023, he gave a talk on Catawba Nation pottery at the James K. Polk Historical Site.



Maurice Crowder has been hired as a recruitment and admissions counselor and as an assistant men’s basketball coach at USC Salkehatchie. He previously served as an assistant basketball coach at Grambling State University.



Susan Cruise, associate professor of sociology at USC Lancaster, is the recipient of the USC Lancaster Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award.

She also played the “mean old lady” in the USC Lancaster Players Production of “Silent Night.”



David W. Dangerfield, associate professor of history at USC Salkehatchie, is the 2023-24 recipient of the Chris P. Plyler Excellence in

Service Award for Palmetto College Campuses. The Plyler Award is presented to a faculty member who personifies excellence in service to the campus, university, community and profession.

[Dangerfield presented research at the British American Nineteenth Century History \(BrANCH\) Annual Conference 2023.](#) The international meeting of historians was held at the Queens College – Oxford University in September 2023. His presentation, “Performing Whiteness in Gray,” which examined free non-white soldiers who served in the Confederate army during the Civil War, was shared as part of a panel on race in the 19th Century South.

He was featured in a [web-published interview](#) with Ramon Jackson, curator of African American culture and history collections and curatorial affairs at the South Carolina State Museum, discussing William Turpin, a lesser known but important abolitionist. Dangerfield previously has published about Turpin and is also a consultant for the museum.

Dangerfield also completed research for a proposed South Carolina Historical Monument to be placed at Burton’s Ferry on Highway 301 at the Savannah River. The monument was proposed by the [Allendale County SC250 Committee](#), an organization that works to celebrate the Semiquincentennial of the American Revolution in South Carolina, and has been accepted for placement by the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office.

Dangerfield presented a lecture, titled “Freedom Deferred: Free People of Color and Enslaved Experiences in the American Revolution,” to the South Carolina Historical Society in February 2024.



Jason Darby, director of marketing and communications for Palmetto College, presented a paper, titled “Black alumni and their subsequent

successes: The Reconstruction Era at the University of South Carolina, 1873-1877,” and participated in a panel discussion on “Black Educators and Education During Reconstruction and Beyond” at the 2024 annual meeting of the Southern History of Education Society, co-hosted by the University of South Carolina and Allen University, in March 2024.



Christopher Dofossez, assistant professor of psychology at USC Sumter, is the recipient of the USC Sumter Student Government Association Teacher of the Year Award.



Elizabeth Easley, associate professor of exercise science at USC Lancaster, recently attended the Southeast American College of Sports Medicine Conference in Greenville, S.C., with dual enrollment student Ariana Bachini. Easley contributed to three presentations, two of which involved work with Bachini

and **Sarah Sellhorst**, professor of Exercise Science and chair of the Math, Science, Nursing and Public Health Division at USC Lancaster, including: “Interpretation of Adiposity Indicators in NJCAA Female Athletes,” a thematic poster session with oral presentation presented by Easley, Bachini and Sellhorst at the Southeast American College of Sports Medicine Conference, February 24, 2024, in Greenville, S.C.; and “Fat-free Mass and Handgrip

Strength in NJCAA Athletes Based on Self-Reported Strength Training,” a free communication poster session presented by Bachini, Sellhorst and Easley at the Southeast American College of Sports Medicine Conference, February 23, 2024, in Greenville, S.C.

Easley also co-presented a thematic poster session with oral presentation, “Validity of a Pediatric-specific BIA Equation to Predict Fat-free Mass in Children Ages 2-4 years,” (Naylor TR, Jacobs MV, Good LR, Easley EA, Clasey JL) at the Southeast American College of Sports Medicine Conference, February 2, 2024, in Greenville, S.C.



Susan Elkins, chancellor of USC Palmetto College, presented “Digital Oases in Broadband Deserts: Innovation and Accessibility

in Rural South Carolina,” alongside iCarolina Lab Project Director **Carl Owens** and Palmetto College Campus Deans **Walt Collins**, **Randy Lowell** and **Mike Sonntag**, at the Regional and Branch Campus Administrators (RBCA) 2023 Annual Conference in Sarasota, Fla., in June 2023.

She also gave a presentation on the Palmetto College iCarolina Lab Network at the 85th Association for Continuing Higher Education (ACHE) Annual Conference in October 2023.



Julia Elliott, professor of women’s and gender studies and English in Palmetto College Columbia, has written a new book set to be

published by Tin House Books in winter 2025. [Hellions](#), a collection of stories set in the American South will blend folklore, fairy tale, Southern Gothic and horror with occult and feminist elements.



Stan Emmanuel, senior business instructor at USC Lancaster, published expert comments on store credit cards on [WalletHub](https://www.wallethub.com).



Pearl Fernandes, professor of biology at USC Sumter, had an article accepted in the *Journal for Nurse Practitioners*: Vick, L.L.,

Mitchell, S., Fernandes, P., Tavakoli, A., Samuels, K., Jenerette, C. (2023). Nurse practitioners' competencies and attitudes towards patients with sickle cell.

She also presented a paper at the Association of College and University Biology Educators conference: "Plankton exploration at Swan Lake Iris Gardens: A mentoring summer research project for students." (Kiernan & Fernandes).



Rebecca Freeman, director of Medford Library at USC Lancaster, authored a book review that will be appearing in an upcoming

edition of the *South Carolina Libraries Journal*. She also had a poster accepted for the 2023 North Carolina Library Association Biennial Conference entitled "Cooking in the Library."

Freeman presented "Cooking in Libraries" at the 2024 Southeast Collaborative Online Conference in March 2024. She also presented "Sweet Tea and the South" with Jean Moats, director of library services at Johnson & Wales University-Charlotte, at the 26th Annual Comparative Literature Conference – Global Food Studies in March.



Vincent Frontero, instructor of English at USC Sumter, has had two poems accepted for publication: "After Another Panic Attack" in *The McNeese Review* and "The Morning" in *The Meadow*.



Amy Gerald, assistant professor of English at USC Lancaster, developed and implemented a five-part writing workshop series for the Arras

Foundation's summer internship program. She worked with staff to discern their needs, brainstorm a structure and determine appropriate scheduling. Workshops focused on awareness of the rhetorical situation of any writing scenario and how that applies to interns' task of writing an end-of-internship report to the foundation's board of directors. Interns leveraged the writing process with pre-writing, journaling, drafting, peer workshops and instructor consultation.

Gerald presented a paper titled "Southern (Dis)comfort: A White Woman's Critique of a Black Woman's Work," as part of the panel "White Privilege and Coalition Building Embrace Discomfort and Do the Work" at the Feminisms and Rhetorics Conference at Spelman College in Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 30 to Oct. 3, 2023. At the same conference, she also presented a poster, "Navigating the Town and Gown Trope: Community Partnerships through Project-Based Learning," based on her Business Writing class's partnership with the Lancaster Promise Neighborhood.

Gerald is also a 2024 Research Initiative for Summer Engagement (RISE) Grant recipient for a summer project entitled "The Black Grimké's in Charleston: Building Public Memory from the Trauma of Slavery."



Kajal Ghoshroy, professor of biology at USC Sumter, has published *Investigative Microbiology: a Laboratory Manual* (TopHat,

2023).

She was also selected as the F2 Fellow for the Planting Science Project of the Botanical Society of America for 2023.



Terrence Gilmore, director of recruitment for Palmetto College, was elected to represent the Palmetto College Columbia and central

administration staff in the USC Columbia Staff Senate for the 2023-25 senate term.



Suzanne Goodson, assistant director of finance and grants administrator at USC Salkehatchie, will retire, on June 30, 2024,

following a 25-year career.



Carmela Gottesman, associate professor of psychology at USC Salkehatchie, presented her research on Spatial Mental Representation at

the Annual Meeting of the International Vision Society.



Kristina Grob, chair of Division of Science, Mathematics, and Engineering, chair of the Division of Business Administration and Economics

and associate professor of philosophy at USC Sumter, presented "Beyond 'War':

Limiting and Liberating Metaphors for Sexual and Reproductive Justice” at the National Women’s Studies Association’s 43rd Annual Conference in October 2023.



Kenny Halas, USC Lancaster women’s soccer head coach, led the team to win its first NJCAA Division I Region X Championship in October 2023.

The team subsequently advanced to the final round in the 2023 NJCAA D1 Southeast District Championship Tournament.



Louis ‘Luke’ Hall, adjunct psychology faculty at USC Sumter, was interviewed regarding community and police relationships

with *Diversity Works* magazine in the [October 2023 issue](#).

He also gave a presentation on situational awareness and body language for the S.C. Public Defenders conference in Myrtle Beach, S.C., in September 2023.



Lisa Hammond, professor of English at USC Lancaster and director of faculty affairs at USC Columbia, presented “Beneath Our

Feet: Ghost Tours, Southern History and Hauntings in Seven Poems” at the annual conference of the Popular Culture Association in the South/American Culture Association in the South in New Orleans in September 2023.



Claudia Heinemann-Priest, instructor of English at USC Lancaster, has published two recent research projects are “The History of the

Germanic Krampus/Knecht Rupprecht figures and their pop culture references” and “What is Fry Bread? Indigenous, multicultural and global meanings and connections” culminating in an online publication.

Brenda Hightower, health and safety coordinator at USC Salkehatchie, has retired following 26 years of service.



Becky Hillman, professor of mathematics at USC Sumter, had a manuscript accepted for presentation and publication at the Computing

Conference to be held in London, UK, in July 2024: Chhetri, S., Toussaint, M., Mdziniso, N. & Hillman, R. (2024). A Comparison of Student Engagement Across Three Teaching Modalities in an Introductory Statistics Course, Computing Conference 2024. The proceedings of the conference will be published in the Springer series “Lecture Notes in Networks and Systems.”



Deborah Hudson, instructor of computer science and business at USC Union, was selected for induction as an honorary member of the University

of South Carolina Chapter, the Upsilon Zeta, of Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society for her support of nontraditional students in the Liberal Studies, Organizational Leadership and online Elementary Education bachelor’s degree programs.

Laura Hughes, instructor of art at USC Sumter, presented a four-week lecture series on the Art of Italy from the Roman Empire to The Baroque at the Lourie Center/Senior Resource Center in Columbia, S.C.

She created a new USC Columbia Honors College study abroad course for May 2024 entitled “Art and Architecture in Greece from the Neolithic Period to the Age of Pericles.”

Hughes also created a new USC 300-level study abroad course to Mexico City in May 2025, entitled “The Art and Architecture of Ancient Mexico.”



David Hunter, Palmetto College senior fellow and instructor of management for Palmetto College Columbia, retired from his part-time role in December

2023.

He retired from full-time service as associate chancellor for planning, assessment and student success for Palmetto College in 2018, but remained with Palmetto College on a part-time basis to work on SACSCOC compliance and assessment reporting for the Palmetto College campuses, Palmetto College Columbia and Palmetto College Online, and continued to teach within Palmetto College Columbia.

Thanks to his efforts, not only were there no SACSCOC recommendations in 2021 but accolades for Palmetto College in the 10-year review. Hunter worked for Palmetto College and its predecessor units since he joined the University of South Carolina in 1977.



Austin Jenkins, senior instructor of biology at USC Sumter, [led the SC ETV Endowment nature trip to Hawaii this past summer](#) (2023) and served as

a regular guest on the SC ETV/PBS series “Making it Grow” to show and explain the significance of dragonflies in

A. Jenkins, continued on page 20

A. Jenkins, continued from page 19

nature in [September 2023](#), to talk about passionflowers and fritillary butterflies in [October 2023](#) and to discuss hawk moths and millipedes, also in [October 2023](#).



Ernest Jenkins, associate professor of history at USC Lancaster, was recognized by the Lancaster Breakfast Rotary Club as a Paul Harris Fellow in

January 2024. During the club’s Jan. 31 meeting, he gave a presentation on “The Great Wagon Road.”



Bettie Obi Johnson, professor of chemistry at USC Lancaster, helped facilitate the USC Lancaster Chemistry Club’s participation in

Erwin Elementary School’s Community Career Day on Nov. 17, 2023, performing chemistry experiments with 350 students throughout the day.

She also arranged for two USCL students enrolled in the SC LEND program to attend a statewide virtual leadership conference in January 2024. SC LEND is a program dedicated to leadership development education in neurodevelopmental and related disabilities. USCL is one of only two universities in South Carolina with students participating in an undergraduate version of the program, which was developed originally for graduate professionals seeking advanced training in this area.



Chris Judge, assistant director of Native American studies at USC Lancaster, presented lectures offered by the Historic Port Royal Foundation

on Oct. 26, 2023. His talks were for the inaugural Dr. Lawrence S. Rowland Lecture Series. The lectures were titled “Precontact Native American Societies on the Lower SC Coast” and “South

Carolina Native American Societies after Contact.”

Judge has been invited to submit a chapter on the Wateree Valley Mississippian to the *Oxford Handbook on Mississippian Archaeology*.

He received the 2023 Community Advocate of the Year Award from the South Carolina Indigenous Business Day organizer.

Judge presented “Are the Congaree Indians Descended from Cofitachequi” in a lecture at the Kershaw County Library. He also presented “Resilience and Revolution: Native Peoples in the 18th Century South Carolina” exhibit for the SC Humanities Council Speaker Bureau on Nov. 30, 2023.

Judge is also a 2024 Research Initiative for Summer Engagement (RISE) Grant recipient for a summer project entitled “Searching for Additional Evidence of 16th Century Spanish Artifacts from Excavations at the Mulberry Site, Kershaw County, South Carolina.”

In April 2024, he was selected for induction as an honorary member of the University of South Carolina Chapter, the Upsilon Zeta, of Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society for his support of nontraditional students in the Liberal Studies, Organizational Leadership and online Elementary Education bachelor’s degree programs.



Andrew Kettler, assistant professor of history at USC Union, was elected president-elect of H-Net for 2024 in November 2023; he will serve as the organization’s

president in 2025. [H-Net: Humanities and Social Science Online](#) is a large online network for humanities scholars of over 100,000 scholars in more than 90 countries.

Kettler presented at the Society for the History of Discoveries. He published two articles on “[Sulphur](#)” and “[Racism](#)” in the [Encyclopedia of Smell History and Heritage](#) as part of Odeuropa.

Kettler published two journal articles, including “[Graphic Worlding: Radical Histories and the Narrative Form in Recent Works from Graphic Mundi](#),” in the *Journal of World History*, 34(4), December 2023, pp. 651-660;

and “[Recuperative Archives, Critical Resistance, and the History of the Senses in the Atlantic World](#),” in the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Latin American History*, in October 2023.

Kettler published several reviews, including a [review of *The Deepest Dye: Obeah, Hosay, and Race in the Atlantic World* by Aisha Khan](#) in the *Journal of World History*, 34(4), December 2023, pp. 661-663; a review of *Cattle Poetics: How Aesthetics Shapes Politics in Mursiland, Ethiopia*, by Jean-Baptiste Eczet in [African Studies Quarterly](#), 22(1), December 2023, pp. 74-76; and a review of [How machines came to speak: Media technologies and freedom of speech](#), by Jennifer Petersen in *Journal of American Culture*, 46(3), pp. 282-283.



Dan Kiernan, senior instructor of biology at USC Sumter, presented at the Association of College and University Biology Educators conference:

“Plankton exploration at Swan Lake Iris Gardens: A mentoring summer research project for students.” (Kiernan & Fernandes).



Andrew Kunka, professor of English at USC Sumter, contributed a chapter, titled “[Crime: From EC Comics to Ed Brubaker](#),”

in [The Cambridge Companion to the American Graphic Novel](#), edited by Jan Baetens, Hugo Frey, and Fabrice Leroy, Cambridge University Press, 2023, pp. 106-121.

He is a 2024 Research Initiative for Summer Engagement (RISE) Grant recipient for a summer project entitled “So You Think You Know Ambush Bug: Testing the Limits of Superheroes.”



Wei-Kai Lai, professor of mathematics and chair of the Division of Math, Sciences and Professional Studies at USC Salkehatchie, and

his student Nishant Chinnasami attended the a Regional Mathematics and Statistics Conference at the University of North Carolina Greensboro, where Chinnasami presented a talk entitled “A Student of Tricolored Towers of Hanoi.”



Dana Lawrence, associate professor of English at USC Lancaster, is the 2023-24 recipient of the John J. Duffy Excellence in Teaching Award for Palmetto

College Campuses. The Duffy Award is presented to a faculty member for exemplary dedication and commitment to students and their academic success.



Michele Lee retired from concurrent roles as part-time Palmetto College chief financial officer and full-time director of budget and business

operations at USC Union in December 2023. She began working at USC Union in 1994 as bookstore manager, later adding the role of accounts payable manager for the campus. Lee also spent time working in Financial Aid, Admissions, Continuing Education and Library before she became the director of budget and finance in 2007. She took on the part-time role of chief financial officer for Palmetto College in summer 2023.



Todd Lekan, associate dean of academic and student affairs and professor of philosophy at USC Lancaster, **Patrick Lawrence**,

associate professor of English and director of the Academic Success Center at USC Lancaster; and

Suzanne Penuel, associate professor of English at USC Lancaster, presented on a panel for an event entitled “CTRL Your Future: AI @work” in January 2024 at the Gateway Conference



Center in Chester County. The event was organized by the Chester County Chamber of Commerce.



Tamika Lewis, counselor and instructor of psychology at USC Lancaster, presented at the 11th Annual Black Doctoral Network Conference in

Atlanta, Ga., on Oct. 21, 2023. The presentation topic was “Analyzing Systemic Factors When Counseling Black Women of Christian Faith in the United States.”



McKenzie Lemhouse, assistant librarian at USC Lancaster’s Medford Library, has completed the Certificate in Open Education

Librarianship program offered by the Open Education Network. She has also transitioned into the head editor role for South Carolina Libraries, the official journal of the South Carolina Library Association.

Lemhouse and Rebecca Freeman, director of Medford Library at USC Lancaster, co-authored a peer-reviewed article, titled “[Adding Color to Our Shelves: Creating a Graphic Novel Collection at USC Lancaster](#),” which was published in *Technical Services Quarterly*, 40(3), 129-39. The duo also gave a presentation, titled “Battling Period Poverty in the Library” at the virtual portion of the 2023 North Carolina Library Association Biennial Conference in October 2023.



Randy Lowell, campus dean at USC Union, was an invited peer reviewer for the journal *Reading Research Quarterly* (2022 Impact Factor: 4.2,

and acceptance rate of 12%), reviewing new article submission in early 2023 related to expertise in vocabulary learning, and providing additional feedback on two subsequent revise-and-resubmit submissions of same paper during 2023, resulting in eventual acceptance of article for publication in the journal.

He also presented with student research collaborator Jessica Dawkins on their research, entitled “Impact of Consistency on Incidental Vocabulary Acquisition: An Eye Movement Study,” at the 2023 annual Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA) conference in New Orleans, and at the 2023 Discover USC event on the USC Columbia campus in April.

Lowell was also the recipient of a letter of appreciation through the Thank-A-Teacher program presented by the Center for Teaching Excellence on the USC Columbia campus, based on a student nomination to acknowledge the positive impact he had on their learning in one of his 2023 classes.



Steven Lownes, associate professor of world languages at USC Union, is the recipient of the USC Union Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award.

He is also the incoming chair of the Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate.



Matt Lynch, USC Salkehatchie men's basketball head coach, [led the team to win the NJCAA D1 Region X and Atlantic District Championships](#) in

March 2024. The team advanced to and competed in the 2023-24 NJCAA D1 National Championship Tournament as well.

The first-year head coach was also named the [2024 NJCAA D1 Atlantic District Coach of the Year](#).



Ahron Mack, instructor of speech at USC Salkehatchie, is the recipient of the USC Salkehatchie Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award.



Lynette Martek, instructor of geology at USC Lancaster, retired August 2023.



Ray McManus, professor of English at USC Sumter and chair of the Divisions of Arts and Letters/ Humanities Social Sciences and Education, has

a new collection of poetry, *The Last Saturday in America*, that was released in March 2024 by Hub City Press.



Sarah Miller, professor of history and interim associate dean for academic and student affairs at USC Salkehatchie, received the DAR National

Excellence in Historic Preservation Medal during a luncheon hosted by the Colonel Joseph Glover Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The award recognizes a person who has done extraordinary work over a long period of time in establishing a historic district, preserving a local landmark, restoring or preserving objects of historic cultural significance, or establishing or participating in oral history projects, youth leadership and education at the regional, state and/or national level. Additionally, Walterboro, S.C., Mayor Bill Young proclaimed May 15, 2024, as "Dr. Sarah Miller Day" and presented her with a resolution from the City of Walterboro commending her on receiving this honor.

In her role as president of the Colleton County Historical and Preservation Society (CCHAPS), Miller accepted a check of \$1.25 Million from S.C. Senator Margie Bright-Matthews for stabilization and preservation of the [Pon Pon Chapel of Ease](#). This money was granted by the S.C. legislature and will be instrumental in preserving the 1754 church ruin in Jacksonboro, S.C.

Miller presented three presentations on Pon Pon Chapel of Ease within the past year. The first was at the historic site for the Drayton Hall Field Trip tours, the second was about the history of the people and the site for Cottageville Conversations at the Cottageville branch of the Colleton County Library, and the third was about the history and preservation of the chapel to the Festivelo (part of the Palmetto Cycling Coalition).

As [CCHAPS](#) president, Miller has overseen the care of Pon Pon Chapel for many years. In the last few years, her research, along with that of four students, has focused on the people buried in the cemetery and the community of the church, as well as developing a plan for the creation of a heritage tourism destination. This research was funded by three USC RISE grants and two Magellan Scholar grants.



Justin Mogilski, associate professor of psychology at USC Salkehatchie, is the 2023-24 recipient of the Denise R. Shaw Excellence in Scholarship Award

for Palmetto College Campuses. The Shaw Award is presented to a faculty member who exhibits outstanding scholarly research or creative achievement.

His original research manuscript "Polygamous interest in a mononormative nation: The roles of sex and sociosexuality in polygamous interest in a heterosexual sample from the UK" has been accepted in the [Archives of Sexual Behavior](#).

Mogilski [was interviewed for the Modern Wisdom Podcast](#) and has a popular article "[A Sex Researcher's Guide to Non-Monogamy](#)" published in *Queer Majority*.

He presented four conference talks this summer, including: "Multi-partner relationship maintenance practices predict rates of conflict and friendship among in- and extra-pair intimate partners" at the International Society for Sex Research Conference in Montreal, Canada (2023); "Does consensual non-monogamy address the recurrent adaptive challenges of having multiple intimate partners? Evidence from an international sample" at the International Society for Human Ethology in Detroit, Mich. (2023); "Multi-partner relationship maintenance practices predict rates of conflict and friendship among in- and extra-pair intimate partners" at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference in Palm Springs, Calif. (2023); and "Mate retention behaviors are less common in multi-partner relationships and among those who engage in consensually non-monogamous relationship maintenance practices" at the Northeastern Evolutionary Psychology Society Conference in New Paltz, N.Y. (2023).



Erin Moon-Kelly, adjunct professor of music at USC Lancaster, participated in the August Beginnings Concert at Osceola United

Methodist Church in Lancaster, S.C., on Aug. 20, 2023, in a collaboration between EMK Music and the Lancaster County Council for the Arts. Performers included Erin Moon-Kelly, **Connor Austell**, assistant professor of music at USC Lancaster, Lisa Knox, Troy Dunbar and Eric Grace.

Moon-Kelly also participated in a concert offered by the Charlotte Concert Band which sold over 600 tickets for its concert at the brand-new AMP at Ballantyne on Oct. 31, 2023. This was the non-profit organization's largest audience in its 60-year history.



Brandon Newton has [joined the USC Lancaster faculty](#) as a full-time business instructor. A three-time USC alumnus and former USC Lancaster student

body president, Newton represents District 45 (Kershaw and Lancaster Counties) in the S.C. House of Representatives.



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

presented a research paper at the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic annual meeting in Philadelphia in July 2023.

His research article, "It's in the Blood: Family Memories of Native Violence in the Settler South" was accepted (with revisions) for the journal *History and Memory*.

Nooe's book [Aggression & Sufferings: Settler Violence, Native Resistance and the Coalescence of the Old South](#) was published by the University of

Alabama Press in December 2023. He held his first book signing, hosted by the University of Alabama Press, at the Southern Historical Association annual meeting on Nov. 10, 2023.

He presented a research paper, titled "Crafting 'Classic Florida Fare' at Disney Springs: Foodways as Theme at Art Smith's Homecomin' Restaurant" at the 2023 Northeast Popular Culture Association annual conference on Oct. 14, 2023.

Nooe presented a paper, titled "[Making History: Florida's Colonial Past and Settler Violence from the Perspective of Second Seminole War Volunteers](#)," at the Southern Historical Association annual meeting in Charlotte, N.C., on Nov. 10, 2023.

He also presented a paper, titled "Sharing Jane Johns' Suffering: Florida Settler Memory and Seminole Dispossession," at the American Society of Ethnohistory annual meeting in Tallahassee, Fla., in November 2023. Nooe was the organizer for the panel titled "Borders of Violence in Florida and the Native South." He also served as chair for the panel "Gender in the Native South, A Reinterpretation: Part 1" at the conference.

Nooe currently has an article, titled "Consecrating the Hampton Massacre: Native Resistance, Settler Memory and the Coalescence of South Carolina," under peer review with the *South Carolina Historical Magazine*.

His second book is under contract with the University Press of Florida and invited to be a part of the "Florida in Focus" series. The manuscript is tentatively titled *Florida Reveries: The Three Histories of Walt Disney World's Disney Springs and the Re-Creation of Florida's Past*.

Nooe also had a paper accepted to present at the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic annual meeting in Philadelphia in July 2024. The paper is titled "Remembering Solomon Wood's Fort: Georgia's Landscapes of Indigenous Erasure."



Amber Novotny, vice chancellor for enrollment management for Palmetto College, gave a presentation at the Society for Advancement

of Management (SAM) International Business Conference 2024 in March 2024 in Orlando, Fla.



Adam Olano has been hired as the assistant information technology director for Palmetto College.

Susan Doherty Osteen, graduate teaching assistant at USC Sumter, presented a paper in June 2023 at the Space Between conference, held at West Texas A&M, titled "Outside the Circle of Trust: Selma Metzenthin-Raunick and America's Cultural Amnesia for Texas German Literature."



Phillip Parker, instructor of accounting, finance and insurance and chair of the Business, Behavioral Sciences, Criminal

Justice and Education at USC Lancaster, gave a presentation in December 2023 to consumers of the Lancaster Vocational Rehabilitation Center on budgeting.



Damien Picariello, director of faculty, curricula and courses for Dual Enrollment Programs and associate professor of political science

at USC Sumter, is editor of a new book, titled [The Western and Political Thought: A Fistful of Politics](#) (Palgrave

Picariello, continued on page 24

Picariello, continued from page 23

Macmillan, 2023). He also contributed two chapters, “Chapter 2: ‘This Place Isn’t a Prison’: Institutions, Choice and the Case of Arkham Asylum” (co-authored with Tony Spanakos) and “Chapter 5: The Mutants, the Sons of Batman, and the Long Shadow of the Bat,” in [Batman’s Villains and Villainesses: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Arkham’s Souls](#), eds. Justin Martin and Marco Favaro (Lexington Books, 2023).



Anna Carol Ptacin has been hired as a nursing instructor for USC Salkehatchie’s Rural Nursing Initiative Partnership with USC Beaufort.

After earning her B.S. in Nursing through USC Salkehatchie’s previous partnership with USC Columbia’s College of Nursing, she started a career as a nurse in the progressive care unit at St. Francis Hospital where she worked for six years.



Eric Reisenauer, executive associate dean of academic and student affairs at USC Sumter, has been appointed interim campus dean at USC

Sumter, effective July 1, 2024. He has served in his present role since 2013, and he has been on the faculty of USC Sumter since 1997.



Kim Richardson, associate professor of history at USC Lancaster, authored several articles in [The Americas: An Encyclopedia of Culture and](#)

[Society](#) (ABC-CLIO, 2024), including the following submitted to editors: “Bolivia, Independence Movement,” “Brazil, Provinces of,” “Chile, Independence Movement,” “Colombia, Independence Movement” and “Ecuador, Independence Movement.”

He also authored a book review – *Pálffy, Géza, Hungary Between Two Empires: 1526-1711*. Bloomington, Indiana: University of Indiana, 2021 – that was submitted to *World History Connected* in November 2023.



William F. “Bill” Riner Jr., Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Exercise Science at USC Lancaster, died on Dec. 19, 2023, at age 79.

The Kannapolis, N.C., native earned a bachelor’s degree from Appalachian State University, and began a teaching and coaching career at Buford High School in Lancaster County. In addition to his teaching duties, he was the trainer and coach for football programs, reinstated and coached the track program, and started the cross-country team. He also started the school’s wrestling program and was instrumental in pioneering high school wrestling programs across South Carolina.

After completing a master’s degree and Ph.D. in Exercise Physiology from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Riner returned to Lancaster to join the faculty at USC Lancaster. He was instrumental in the planning and development of the USC Lancaster Physical Education Center (now known as the Gregory Family YMCA) and was its first director. Beyond the classroom, he created many programs that benefited the health and wellness of his community. He presented his extensive research on childhood obesity and pediatric exercise at academic conferences. His visionary initiatives launched crucial programs combating significant health issues, including the Cardiac Rehabilitation Program, the Diabetes Education Center, and the pioneering Physical Therapy Program. For his exceptional contributions, Riner was honored with the University of South Carolina Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Health and Exercise Science award and received the prestigious Governor’s Distinguished Professor Award for two consecutive years.

An avid outdoor enthusiast, his love and appreciation for land and wildlife preservation led him and his wife Mary

to become among the first to grant a conservation easement to the Katawba Valley Land Trust. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, a niece, three great-nephews, and a vast community of students, friends, and colleagues. A funeral service was held on Jan. 6, 2024, in the Bundy Auditorium on the USC Lancaster campus.



Bertha Maxwell-Roddey, retired USC Lancaster professor, [died on March 20, 2024, at age 93](#). The Seneca, S.C., native was a graduate

of Oconee County Training School, received a bachelor’s degree from Johnson C. Smith University, a Master of Education degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro – where was UNCG’s first Black woman master’s degree graduate – and a doctorate from Union Graduate School.

As a teacher and scholar, Maxwell-Roddey began her career teaching in the Charlotte, N.C., public schools and was the first Black woman to serve as principal of a formerly all-white elementary school in Charlotte in 1968. [She joined the education faculty of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 1970 and was named founding director of the university’s African studies department in 1971.](#)

In June 1984, [Maxwell-Roddey was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by the Governor of North Carolina for her community service and work in preserving Black history in North Carolina.](#)

Following her retirement from UNC Charlotte as the Frank Porter Graham Professor Emeritus in 1986, she taught at USC Lancaster for 20 years.

Outside of her accomplishments as an educator, Maxwell-Roddey was a co-founder of both the [Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts and Culture in Charlotte](#) and the National Council for Black Studies in the 1970s. [She also served as the 20th national president of Delta Sigma Theta, a historically Black sorority, in the 1990s. In that role she spearheaded the organization’s involvement with Habitat for Humanity, building hundreds of homes in the United States, the](#)

Caribbean and Africa.

Her life is chronicled in the book, *Bertha Maxwell-Roddey: A Modern-Day Race Woman and the Power of Black Leadership* (University of Florida Press, 2022).



Emily Schafer, associate professor of psychology at USC Union, received a grant from the Fulbright program to bring two international scholars to the

Union campus for a week during the spring 2024 semester to present their research. The grant, the Humphrey Community College Residency Program Fellowship – will allow USC Union to host Dr. Florence Kwamboka, a Kenyan scholar in law and human rights, and Dr. Sakhile Khetsiwe Salome, a scholar from Eswatini in public health policy and management, in March 2024.

In addition, two of her summer research students, Za’Kyah Walton and Haley Jackson, had research accepted into the International Conference on Humanities, Education, and Social Sciences. The trio will present their research project entitled, “Adverse Childhood Experiences and Young Adult Attachment: A Qualitative Study” in San Francisco in April 2024.



Peter Seipel, associate professor of philosophy at USC Lancaster, provided comments on “Are Debates About Monogamy’s Moral

Permissibility Misguided?” at the Easter Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association.



Joe Siren, speech and history instructor at USC Salkehatchie, [retired after 48 years of teaching service.](#) He taught on USC Salkehatchie’s

Allendale and Walterboro campuses and at several area high schools. He arrived

as a teacher at Allendale High School in 1974 and joined USC Salkehatchie the following year as an instructor in the concurrent high school program. As a nationally recognized high school debate coach, Siren prepared teams that routinely defeated larger, wealthier schools at competitions held around the country, including Harvard, Stanford and the University of North Carolina.

His impact as an educator has been recognized time and again and he was selected as USC Salkehatchie Professor of the Year in 1982, 1995, 2005, 2013, 2014 and 2016. Siren’s extensive travels to more than 150 countries inspired and educated students, and souvenirs from those travels served as the origin of one of the Allendale campus’s most iconic features – the international flags lining the Atrium. That collection has grown as international students and faculty add flags from their respective nations.



Michael Sonntag, USC Sumter campus dean and professor of psychology, is stepping down as campus dean following a decade of successful

leadership, effective June 30, 2024.

Prior to his 2014 arrival as USC Sumter campus dean, Sonntag served as provost and vice president for academic affairs at the University of Maine at Presque Isle and as a psychology faculty member, department chair and director of assessment and planning at Lander University. He will join the USC Palmetto College central leadership team as executive director of institutional research, assessment, and analytics on July 1, 2024, taking on a similar role as the recently retired David Hunter who was responsible for Palmetto College’s planning, assessment, and student success.



Julia M. Sorrells, associate head coach of men’s and women’s tennis and sports information director at USC Sumter, was named the

Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA)

Region IV Assistant Coach of the Year.



Amy Stanley, business office manager at USC Salkehatchie, was selected for induction as an honorary member of the University of South Carolina

Chapter, the Upsilon Zeta, of Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society for her support of nontraditional students in the Liberal Studies, Organizational Leadership and online Elementary Education bachelor’s degree programs.



Aubrey Stewart has been hired as the executive director of enrollment management at USC Lancaster. She previously served as

assistant director of graduate programs enrollment at the UNC Charlotte. Stewart earned a Master of Public Administration from the University of Alabama and bachelor’s degree in international relations and affairs from the University of South Alabama.



Ralph Summer, Palmetto College chief financial officer, retired in summer 2023. His financial acumen and leadership had been invaluable in advancing the

mission of Palmetto College during its first decade, both during his time as senior budget analyst in the University of South Carolina Budget Office (where he was responsible working with the regional Palmetto College campuses on their budgets) and during his tenure leading Palmetto College’s overall budget and finance efforts.



Nahid Swails, assistant professor of physics at USC Lancaster, gave a talk related to her research, titled “Advances in Joining Materials Using Innovative

Welding Techniques,” at the Southern Atlantic Coast Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers (SACS AAPT) conference on Oct. 19, 2023.



Frank Terrapin has joined Palmetto College central administration as assistant director of development. He comes to

Palmetto College from the University of South Carolina Department of Athletics, most recently serving as assistant director of athletics parking.

The Walterboro, S.C., native earned a B.S. in Sport and Entertainment Management from the USC in 2019.



Lauren Thomas, adjunct professor of health promotion education and behavior, has earned the distinction of becoming a

Nationally Board-Certified Health & Wellness Coach. Thomas and **Sarah Sellhorst** are in the process of enhancing select Health Promotion, Education and Behavior (HPEB) courses to build an accredited health coach training program for students interested in this skillset. The pathway will align with health coaching principles and industry-specific job tasks.



Hennie van Bulck, interim assistant dean for business and administrative management at USC Sumter, presented two sessions,

entitled “Strategic Positioning for the Firm: Tools for Leverage,” at the Thomson Reuters Tax and Accounting Professionals SYNERGY Conference in Aurora, Col., in November 2023. SYNERGY is the premier TR conference for tax and accounting professionals with a focus on leading edge content-enabled technology.

He also had a manuscript titled “Comparing early COVID-19 experience in South Carolina long-term care facilities: Insights from Marascuilo method” accepted for publication in the *SAM Advanced Management Journal*. This paper was coauthored by Sher Chhetri, Luisa Melo, Hennie van Bulck and three of Chhetri’s students: Christian Sterner, Kaitlin Kiser and Antonio Turner.



Yasmina Vallejos, assistant professor of Spanish at USC Salkehatchie, presented two conference papers: “Dependence and Social Vulnerability in *Páradais* by Fernanda Melchor”

at the Kentucky Foreign Languages Conference, University of Kentucky, April 20-22, 2023; and “The Role of Memory and Appearance in *Páradais* by Fernanda Melchor” at the XLIV Congress of the International Institute of Ibero-American Literature (IILI), National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece, July 5-8, 2023.



Sami Varjosaari, assistant professor of chemistry at USC Sumter, presented his latest RISE grant-funded research on the structure of Pinckneyin,

a potential anti-malarial/antipyretic substance, at the South Eastern Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society hosted in Durham, N.C.



Elliott Vittes, professor of political science in Palmetto College Columbia, retired in May 2024. He has been awarded the rank of Professor

Emeritus.

Vittes joined USC Palmetto College in July 2015 as executive vice chancellor, working to ensure that many functional areas across Palmetto College operated effectively and efficiently. He retired from the administrative role in 2019 to return to teaching political science full-time as a Palmetto College Columbia faculty member.

He joined Palmetto College following 30 years of progressive responsibility within the University of Central Florida and its nine regional campuses. During his UCF tenure, the institution experienced phenomenal growth. He was instrumental with the leadership team – in roles that included interim vice provost and dean of undergraduate studies – working to grow the UCF regional campus system and the distance learning and online environment.

Vittes, a political scientist, earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from William Paterson University, a master’s degree from Cornell University and a doctorate degree from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.



Christian White has joined USC Salkehatchie as an assistant men’s basketball coach. He previously served on the coaching staffs at Chowan

University and UNC Wilmington.



Savannah Williams, veterans affairs coordinator at USC Sumter, was selected for induction as an honorary member of the University of South Carolina

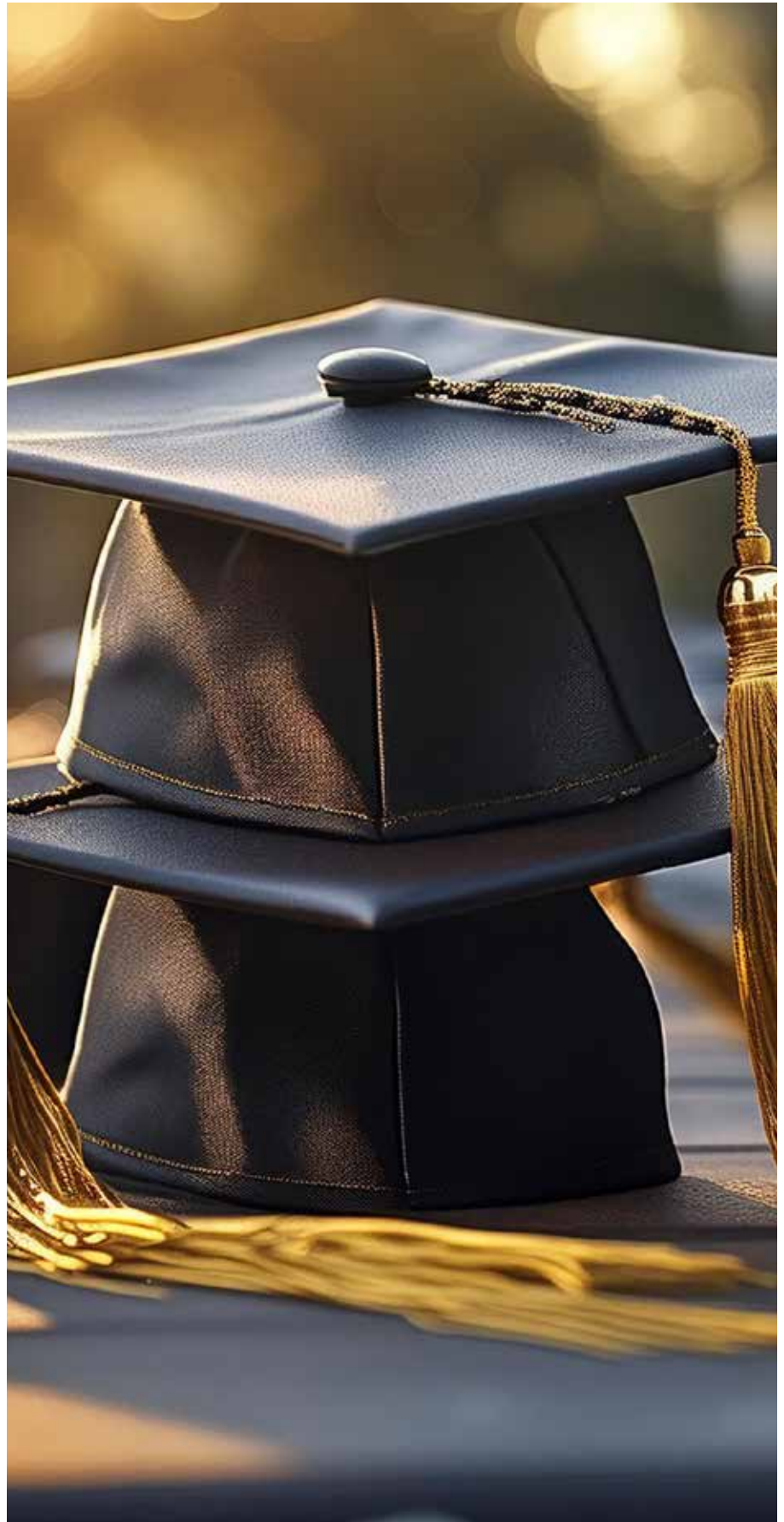
Chapter, the Upsilon Zeta, of Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society for her support of nontraditional

students in the Liberal Studies, Organizational Leadership and online Elementary Education bachelor's degree programs.



Andy Yingst, associate professor of mathematics at USC Lancaster, completed a two-year term as chair of the Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate in April 2024.

He also published two peer-reviewed puzzles in *The Browser* (Cryptic #129) and in *Out of Left Field* (#166).





2024 State of South Carolina Service Awards

20 Years of State Service



Sharon H. Chapman
Head Librarian
USC Sumter



Carmela V. Gottesman
Associate Professor of
Psychology
USC Salkehatchie



Susan P. Jett
Human Resources
Director
USC Union



Constance M. Pender
Library Manager
USC Sumter



Michael E. Sonntag
Campus Dean
USC Sumter



Canova O. Thompson
Custodial Staff
USC Lancaster

10 Years of State Service



Gowoon Choi
Physics Instructor
USC Sumter



Bob Dyer
IT Director
Palmetto College



Elizabeth A. Easley
Associate Professor of
Exercise Science
USC Lancaster



Susan A. Elkins
Chancellor
Palmetto College



Shelley AJ Jones
Associate Professor of
English
Palmetto College
Columbia



Antonio M. Mackey
Information Services
Specialist III / Webmaster
USC Lancaster



Tim Medlin
Head Baseball Coach
USC Sumter



Lee G. Morris
Assistant Professor of
Biology
USC Union



Annie L. Smith
Director of Marketing
and Development
USC Union



Ashley B. Stevenson
Financial Aid Counselor &
Scholarship Coordinator
USC Lancaster



Roy Thompson Jr.
Custodial Staff
USC Lancaster



Jessica D. Williams
Admissions/Registrar
USC Salkehatchie

New books by Palmetto College faculty

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

The two most recent entries to this canon include: *The Last Saturday in America* (Hub City Press, 2024) by **Roy McManus**, professor of English at USC Sumter, and *The Western and Political Thought: A Fistful of Politics* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2023) edited by **Damien K. Picariello**, associate professor of political science at USC Sumter.



For fans of Americana music and a beer after mowing the lawn, [*The Last Saturday in America*](#), by

McManus, confronts the long shadow of Southern masculinity.

According to the publisher, “*The Last Saturday in America* is set in a nation on the precipice of great change. Through examinations of suburban neighbors, bullies, gun violence, and vasectomy appointments, McManus draws a

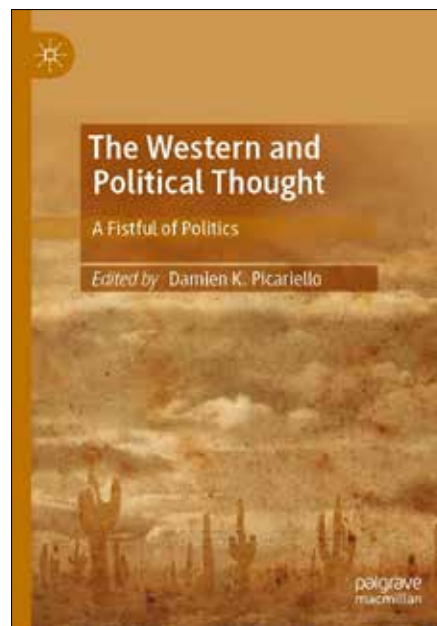
portrait of American masculinity in the face of political division, pandemic, and cultural warfare. McManus’s speaker is caught between the way he was raised and the future he wants to see for who he is raising. He can no longer rely on what he thought he knew, nor does he know what to do about it. The man rendered in these pages is a father, a son, a Southerner. And he is willing to burn it all down and start something new, only to see that the new start he is looking for has been with him the whole time.”



[*The Western and Political Thought: A Fistful of Politics*](#), edited by **Picariello**,

“offers a variety

of engaging and entertaining answers to the question: What do Westerns have to do with politics?,” according to the publisher. “This collection features contributions from scholars in a variety of fields—political science, English, communication studies, and others—that explore the connections between Westerns (prose fiction, films, television series, and more) and politics.”



Selected Palmetto College faculty bibliography

Updated May 2024

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

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

Bucker, Park, compiler. *The Matthew J. and Arlyn Brucoli Collection of F. Scott Fitzgerald at the University of South Carolina: An Illustrated Catalogue*. University of South Carolina Press, 2004.

Collins, Walter P. *Emerging African Voices: A Study of Contemporary African Literature*. Cambria, 2010.

Collins, Walter P. *Tracing Personal Expansion: Reading Selected Novels as Modern African Bildungsromane*. University Press of America, 2006.

Elliott, Julia. *The New and Improved Romie Futch*. Tin House Books, 2015.

Elliott, Julia. *The Wilds*. Tin House Books, 2014.

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

Garane, Garane. *Il latte è buono*. Cosmo Iannone Editore, 2005.

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

Hammond, Lisa. *Moving House*. Texas A&M University Press, 2007.
• 2006 Robert Phillips Chapbook Prize

Hammond, Lisa. *Goddess Suite*. Small Fires Press, 2018.

Hammond, Lisa. *Lily Watch*. Seven Kitchens Press, 2021.

Ivey, Randall K. *The Mutilation Gypsy: And Other Stories*. iUniverse, 2003.

Ivey, Randall K. *The Shape of a Man: A Novella and Five Stories*. iUniverse, 2002.

Ivey, Randall K. *Where the Streets Are Paved with Gold: A Novel in the Compton Cycle*, 2015.

Johnson, Daniel M. *Blood on the Marsh: The adventures of Brigadier William Mackintosh, John Mackintosh Mor, Captain Aeneas Mackintosh, Colonel Anne Mackintosh, General Lachlan McIntosh, Roderick McIntosh, Colonel John McIntosh, Flora MacDonald, Sergeant Allen McDonald and Alexander McDonald of Darien, Georgia*, 2014.

Johnson, Daniel M. *Brier Creek Battleground: A Revolutionary War Site Beside the Savannah River. 2017 ed.*, 2017.

Johnson, Daniel M. *Fort Morris Battleground: An Illustrated Guide to a Revolutionary War Site at Sunbury, Georgia*, 2015.

Johnson, Daniel M. *Mr. McIntosh's Family: The Mackintosh Clan and the McIntosh Family in the Jacobite risings, the settlement of Darien, Georgia, and the struggle for the Colonial American southern frontier*, 2022.

Johnson, Daniel M. *Savannah, Augusta & Brier Creek: Samuel Elbert and His Resistance Against the Conquest of Georgia*, 2018.

Johnson, Daniel M. *The 71st Highlanders in the American Revolution*, 2022.

Johnson, Daniel M. *This Cursed War: Lachlan McIntosh in the American Revolution*, 2018.

Johnson, Daniel M. *This Cursed War: Lachlan McIntosh of Georgia and the Tribulations of His Family During the American Revolution*, 2019.

Johnson, Tekla A. *Free Radical: Ernest Chambers, Black Power and the Politics of Race*. Texas Tech University Press, 2012.

Jones, R. Mac, and **Ray McManus,** editors. *Found Anew: Poetry and Prose Inspired by the South Caroliniana Library Digital Collections*. University of South Carolina Press, 2015.

Kettler, Andrew. *The Smell of Slavery: Olfactory Racism and the Atlantic World*. Cambridge University Press, 2020.



Kingkade, Howard. [*Hole in the Paper Sky*](#) (Screenplay). Iron Ocean Films, 2008.
• “Jury Prize for Best Screenplay,” Beverly Hills Film Festival, 2008

Kingkade, Howard. [*Man from the Dying Planet*](#). Mad Scary Films, 2010.

Kingkade, Howard. [*The Mark*](#). Del Valle Productions/Mad Scary Films, 2016.

Kingkade, Howard, Jim Gottier & Taryn Kosviner. [*Saint Dee Dee*](#), 2014.

Kingkade, Howard and Helen Baldwin. [*Songbird*](#) (Screenplay). La Luz Productions, 2018.
• “Best Original Screenplay of a Short Film,” Nice International Film Festival, 2018
• “Jury Prize for Best Original Story,” Things 2 Fear Film Fest, 2018

Kunka, Andrew J., and Michele K. Troy, editors. [*May Sinclair: Moving Towards the Modern*](#). Ashgate Press, 2006.

Kunka, Andrew J. [*Autobiographical Comics*](#). Bloomsbury Publishing, 2017.

Kunka, Andrew J. [*The Life and Comics of Howard Cruse: Taking Risks in the Service of Truth*](#). Rutgers University Press, 2021.

Lawrence, Patrick. [*Obscene Gestures: Counter-Narratives of Sex and Race in the Twentieth Century*](#). Fordham University Press, 2022.

Lekan, Todd. [*William James and the Moral Life: Responsible Self-Fashioning*](#). Routledge, 2022.

Lowe, Stephen H. [*The Slow Undoing: The Federal Courts and the Long Struggle for Civil Rights in South Carolina*](#). University of South Carolina Press, 2021.
• 2021 George C. Rogers Jr. Award

McManus, Ray. [*Driving Through the Country Before You are Born*](#). University of South Carolina Press, 2007.

McManus, Ray. [*The Last Saturday in America*](#). Hub City Press, 2024.

McManus, Ray. [*Left Behind*](#). Stepping Stones Press, 2008.

McManus, Ray. [*Punch*](#). Hub City Press, 2014.

McManus, Ray. [*Red Dirt Jesus*](#). Marick Press, 2011.
• Marick Press Poetry Prize

Mogiliski, Justin K., and Todd K. Shackelford, editors. [*The Oxford Handbook of Evolutionary Psychology and Romantic Relationships*](#). Oxford University Press, 2023.

Nobis, Nathan, and **Kristina Grob.** [*Thinking Critically About Abortion: Why Most Abortions Aren't Wrong & Why All Abortions Should Be Legal*](#). Open Philosophy Press, 2019.

Nooe, F. Evan. [*Aggression and Sufferings: Settler Violence, Native Resistance, and the Coalescence of the Old South*](#). University of Alabama Press, 2023.
• 2022 Anne B. and James B. McMillan Prize in Southern History

Picariello, Damien K., editor. [*The Western and Political Thought: A Fistful of Policies*](#). Palgrave MacMillan, 2023.

Rinehart, Christine S. [*Drones and Targeted Killing in the Middle East and Africa: An Appraisal of American Counterterrorism Policies*](#). Rowman & Littlefield, 2016.

Rinehart, Christine S. [*Sexual Jihad: The Role of Islam in Female Terrorism*](#). Rowman & Littlefield, 2019.

Rinehart, Christine S. [*Volatile Social Movements and the Origins of Terrorism: The Radicalization of Change*](#). Rowman & Littlefield, 2013.

Steward, Rodney. [*David Schenck and the Contours of Confederate Identity*](#). University of Tennessee Press, 2012.

2024 Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society Inductees



Rachel Butler Dennehy
Liberal Studies major
Palmetto College Columbia



Jaclynn DeLuca
Organizational Leadership
USC Union



Barry Joseph Hinson Jr.
Organizational Leadership
USC Lancaster



Heather Francis Lainey
Organizational Leadership
USC Union



Amanda Carpenter Moses
Organizational Leadership
Palmetto College Columbia



Michaela Maria Robertson
Organizational Leadership
Palmetto College Columbia



Taylor Anne Seffels
Organizational Leadership
Palmetto College Columbia



Daniel Kyle Walters
Organizational Leadership
USC Salkehatchie



Kristin Marie Cerbone
Organizational Leadership
USC Columbia



Cara Michelle Hawkins
Organizational Leadership
USC Columbia



Samantha Marie Ingle
Organizational Leadership
USC Columbia



Ashley Amanda Lugos
Organizational Leadership
USC Columbia

2024 Honorary Palmetto College Faculty and Staff Inductees



Chelsea Corbett
Academic Adviser
Palmetto College Columbia



Christopher Judge
*Instructor of Anthropology
and Assistant Director of
Native American Studies*
USC Lancaster



Amy Stanley
Business Office Manager
USC Salkehatchie



Savannah Williams
Veterans Affairs Coordinator
USC Sumter



Deborah Hudson
*Instructor of Computer
Science and Business*
USC Union

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

The University of South Carolina 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, evening and online.

To honor those dedicated nontraditional students who adroitly handle life’s responsibilities while still achieving and maintaining high scholastic standards, Palmetto College held an April 23 induction ceremony for membership in its chapter of the Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society for adult learners.

This year’s student inductees to the University of South Carolina chapter, the Upsilon Zeta, of Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society included liberal studies major **Rachel Butler Dennehy** (Palmetto College Columbia); organizational leadership majors **Jaclynn DeLuca** (USC Union), **Barry Joseph Hinson Jr.** (USC Lancaster), **Heather Francis Laney** (USC Union), **Amanda Carpenter Moses** (Palmetto College Columbia), **Michaela Maria Robertson** (Palmetto College Columbia), **Taylor Anne**

Seffels (Palmetto College Columbia), and **Daniel Kyle Walters** (USC Salkehatchie); and elementary education majors **Kristin Marie Cerbone** (USC Columbia), **Cara Michelle Hawkins** (USC Columbia), **Samantha Marie Ingle** (USC Columbia), and **Ashley Amanda Lugos** (USC Columbia).

The Upsilon Zeta chapter periodically will choose a few select Palmetto College faculty and staff to be inducted as honorary members of the organization. Honorary faculty and staff inductees who provide academic support to our nontraditional students at Palmetto College Campuses and Palmetto College Columbia included: **Chelsea Corbett**, academic advisor at Palmetto College Columbia; **Christopher Judge**, instructor of anthropology and assistant director of Native American Studies at USC Lancaster; **Amy Stanley**, business office manager at USC Salkehatchie; **Savannah Williams**, veterans affairs

coordinator at USC Sumter; and **Deborah Hudson**, instructor of computer science and business at USC Union.


In addition to these inductees, USC senior **Sandra Powell Williams**, a 2021 Alpha Sigma Lambda inductee, was honored as the 2024 recipient of the David L. Burgraff Award for adult student learners. The organizational leadership major had the highest GPA among nontraditional students enrolled in Palmetto College Columbia’s liberal studies and organizational leadership programs and in USC Columbia’s elementary education online and hybrid bachelor’s degree completion programs.

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.





**Williams earns 2024 Burggraf Award
for highest GPA among nontraditional
student learners**



Sandra Powell Williams is the 2024 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 (GPA) in Palmetto College’s Liberal Studies and Organizational Leadership programs or in the University of South Carolina Columbia’s Elementary Education Online and hybrid bachelor’s degree completion programs.

The upstate South Carolina native is a graduate of Pickens High School. Pursuing her passion for design, she enrolled in some college classes, earning credits from North Greenville University and Clemson University before completing an associate degree in interior design from Anderson College.

In describing her life journey, Williams observes that she has been taken down many roads, with numerous challenges and more than a few unexpected, but often welcome, detours. In 1999, she met her husband Rob and five years later they welcomed their son Spencer, who is currently a sophomore at USC.

Over the next few years, she and her family moved around – different jobs, different towns, different states – with lots of packing and unpacking along the way. All the while, though, Williams never lost sight of her goal, more a personal one than a career-oriented one, to finish her four-year degree. In 2015, the family relocated to South Carolina from Huntertown, Ind. Establishing their home in Elgin, S.C., Williams says that, for the first time in a long while, she felt truly settled, and she began exploring her options for returning to college and earning her bachelor’s degree.

It was her return to the Palmetto state that Williams found – in her own words – “the right fit at the right time for a non-traditional student like myself” in USC Palmetto College. Palmetto College’s commitment to accessibility, affordability and flexibility gave her the opportunity to fulfill her dream and to earn that USC bachelor’s degree.

She initially entered the Liberal Studies bachelor’s degree program in Spring 2019 but, like many students, decided on a change of major. In 2023, she moved into Organizational Leadership bachelor’s degree program.

To say she has been successful in her pursuit is a definite understatement. Since enrolling in Palmetto College, she has maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA on all of her coursework at USC and was inducted into Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society, the nation’s oldest honor society for adult learners, in 2021. Once she completes the two courses in which she is currently enrolled, Williams plans to fulfill her major requirements in Summer 2024. After tackling statistics in the Fall 2024 semester, she is on track to graduate in December 2024, receiving that long sought-after bachelor’s degree.

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

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

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



Lancers give back to community and campus

The students, faculty, staff and supporters of USC Lancaster have placed a priority on community service both internal and external to the campus community in a variety of ways this year.

In October 2023, the **USCL Cares Back-to-School Campaign** (pictured on the opposite page) led by students in the Opportunity Scholars Program of USC Lancaster, delivered over 1,300 school supply items to Brooklyn Springs Elementary School, Clinton Elementary School, and Southside Early Childhood Center.

In November 2023, the **USCL Cares Annual Food Drive**, led by students from the Opportunity Scholars Program of USC Lancaster and the USCL Rotaract Club, made deliveries in November to the United Way of Lancaster County, S.C., and the USCL Student Food Pantry. The items delivered to United Way support the Lancaster Area Coalition for the Homeless (LACH).



In December 2023, the **USCL Cares Annual Food Drive**, in partnership with Lancaster Promise Neighborhood and United Way of Lancaster County, S.C., provided 30 boxes of

canned and dry goods and complimentary hams to families of students at the schools served in Lancaster’s “Promise Zone,” including A. R. Rucker Middle School, Clinton Elementary School and Lancaster High School. Pictured are representatives from both Promise Neighborhood and USCL, as well as students from G.E.N.T.S., the Opportunity Scholars Program of USC Lancaster, and the USCL Rotaract Club



Also in December 2023, through the **USCL Cares Angel Tree Campaign**, 300 gifts provided through the generosity of #LancerNation were delivered to children at Brooklyn Springs Elementary School, Clinton Elementary School and Southside Early Childhood Center.





USC Salkehatchie hosts South Carolina Humanities Council Symposium

The University of South Carolina Salkehatchie hosted the South Carolina Humanities Council Symposium, titled “Just Sharing: Building Community Through Stories of Our Past.” The program is part of a series of symposiums that are being held across South Carolina with a focus on enslavement, Reconstruction and civil rights.

By bringing together some of South Carolina’s most accomplished scholars to share stories and to have a conversation about our state’s history, the program seeks to build community, understanding and healing. USC Salkehatchie and Allendale County hosted the first of these programs.

Each event hosts one scholar from the University of South Carolina, one from Clemson University, and another scholar with expertise in local history. The symposium hosted by USC Salkehatchie included Christian Anderson, professor of education, educational historian and director of the Museum of Education at USC Columbia; Otis Westbrook Pickett, assistant professor of education and university historian at Clemson University; and Dr. Ramon Jackson, curator of African American Culture and History Collections and Curatorial Affairs at the South Carolina State Museum.

In his remarks, Anderson addressed discussed the two distinct moments when the University of South Carolina was desegregated – first, for a brief period (1873-1877) during Reconstruction and then permanently in 1963. Pickett traced the decades-long struggle for desegregation at the College of Charleston and the many figures who worked to erode the color barrier at the institution.

Jackson observed that South Carolina, even its rural reaches, is steeped in civil rights activism and has a rich history that is often overlooked. While reflecting on voting rights protests held at the Allendale County Courthouse in 1965, he said that Allendale County’s civil rights efforts were integral to the statewide story. For Jackson, that stand for the right to vote is something to celebrate. And, he issued a challenge to attendees to uncover and remember more local civil rights history.

The symposium closed with a discussion among the panelists about how the past continues to influence present-day challenges in rural South Carolina. The session was moderated by David W. Dangerfield, associate professor of history at USC Salkehatchie, and was locally coordinated by USC Salkehatchie Campus Dean April Cone and Anne Rice.

DR. C. LESLIE CARPENTER AUDITORIUM



USC Sumter auditorium named in memory of Dean Emeritus Carpenter

The University of South Carolina Sumter is proud to announce the naming and grand re-opening of the campus auditorium. The auditorium will now bear the name of former USC Sumter Dean C. Leslie Carpenter.

In 1970, Carpenter graduated from Texas A&M where he was a member of the Corps of Cadets, Army ROTC, and the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band. Upon graduation, he served in the U.S. Army, and he bravely toured Vietnam as an Infantry Platoon Leader in 1971-72. After returning from overseas, Carpenter earned his Master of Educational Administration degree at Texas A&M and then his Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Oregon in 1977. During this time, he remained active in the U.S. Army Reserve, retiring in 1990 with 20 years of service and the rank of Major.

After 13 years as assistant dean of the Marion campus of The Ohio State University, Carpenter moved to Sumter in 1993 as the Dean of the University of South Carolina Sumter. During his 19 years at USC Sumter, he expanded the bachelor's degrees from three to five, reinstated intercollegiate athletics, and served as the president of the American Association of University

Administration. After over 30 years in the education field, [he retired in 2012](#).

Carpenter did not only make exceptional contributions in his professional life, but he also believed involvement in the community was paramount. He was a member of First Presbyterian Church where he served as a Ruling Elder and sang in the church choir. He was a member and past president of the Sumter Rotary



C. Leslie "Les" Carpenter
Campus Dean (1993-2012)
USC Sumter

Club and served on numerous boards including the Sumter-Shaw Community Council, the Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce and the Sumter Literacy Council Advisory Board.

Les Carpenter [died on Nov. 10, 2022](#). The auditorium located in the Nettles Building has needed attention for many years. As with any large project, funding is a major concern. USC Sumter required donors who recognized the value that this space would bring to the students and community and were willing and able to step up with financial support.

Funding was made possible by several donors. Many USC Sumter staff members donated through the Family

Fund, along with the Glenmore and May Sharp Trust. Mid-Carolina Commission helped the campus utilize Sumter County funding. The Williams Brice Edwards Charitable Trust, longtime friend and supporter of USC Sumter, gave significant contributions to the renovation. Finally, an anonymous donor came forward to support the auditorium renovations and maintenance through a naming opportunity by naming the auditorium in memory of another longtime supporter and part of the USC Sumter family, Dean Emeritus Carpenter.

The re-opening of the auditorium will aid in the recruitment and retention of USC Sumter students. The space is home to many campus events such as opening convocation, awards ceremonies, and Student Life cultural events. The Sumter community will be excited to once again have use of the auditorium for occasions such as dance recitals, theatrical performances, pageants, and graduations. These community events provide an opportunity for the public to be welcomed onto the USC Sumter campus and enjoy social and cultural experiences.



USC Union, Union County School District and USC Upstate announce 2+2 Fast-Track to Teaching Program

South Carolina has a teacher shortage. According to the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement, school districts in South Carolina started the 2023-24 school year with 1,600 teacher vacancies.

The Fast-Track to Teaching initiative aims to reduce that shortage.

“We’re always glad to hear from our high school graduates who continue their education to become a teacher say some of the most rewarding words, ‘I want to teach at home.’” Superintendent Joey Haney said Thursday during a press conference announcing the initiative. “We hear that a lot here in Union and we’re very proud of that.”

USC Union, USC Upstate and the Union County School District established the Fast Track to Teaching or 2+2 program to provide an educational pathway for local students to obtain a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education, elementary education or middle level education. Students can pursue an associate’s degree through USC Union via dual enrollment while in high school and then transition into a bachelor’s degree program at USC Upstate, where they can earn a bachelor’s degree within two years.

Tuition for the dual enrollment coursework with USC Union would be covered by Lottery Tuition Assistance Program funds from the state. If students have any associate degree

coursework remaining after high school and have at least a 3.0 GPA, the Union County Scholarship will cover whatever LIFE Scholarship and other grants or scholarships don’t cover for tuition or fees.

Once at USC Spartanburg qualified students can use LIFE Scholarship and the SC Teacher Loan program to cover the cost of tuition.

“This is a great program overall,” USC Union Dean Randy Lowell said. “We are extremely excited at USC Union to be able to work directly with our partners at the Union County School District and at USC Upstate to create these new pathways for our students to pursue careers in teaching, and to do so in a way that is efficient and at little to no cost to them. Being able to earn their associate degree from USC Union alongside their high school diploma, and then complete all of their upper division education coursework and student teaching through USC Upstate within those next two years out of high school, is an amazing opportunity for them. Critically, being able to do most, if not all, of this right here in Union County on the USC Union campus and in Union County schools will be a great help to the schools in this area in their efforts to meet the large demand for teachers in their classrooms that they, like many schools around the country, continue to face.”

Fast Track to Teaching will provide more teachers while also helping students and their families cut the cost of education in half and the time to get a degree in half, said Dr. Susan Elkins, chancellor of USC’s Palmetto College.

“Students are going to start their associate’s degree while in high school, finish it in high school and probably walk across the stage with us before they walk across the stage with you with that associate’s degree, completely free,” she said. “In two more years they’ll be walking across the stage with Chancellor (Bennie) Harris at USC Upstate, cutting the time and the cost of a degree in half to fulfill one of the greatest shortage areas we have in the workforce in this state and around the entire country.”

Harris compared the effect of the Fast Track to Teaching initiative to boiling water.

“At 211 degrees water is hot,” he said. “At 212 degrees it boils. From boiling water comes steam and with steam you can power a train. Applying an extra degree of temperature to water means the difference something that’s very hot and something that generates enough force to power a machine. All we had to do as educators was to put our creative minds together and give that one little extra effort that’s the difference between something being hot and something being extraordinary.”



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