

## Chancellor's Corner



**Chancellor Susan A. Elkins**  
USC Palmetto College

**A**s we conclude this historic and unprecedented Spring 2020 semester, we have much to celebrate across Palmetto College – although this semester became much different from that for which we are accustomed. The philosopher and strategist Sun Tzu once wrote that “in the midst of chaos, there is also opportunity.” We are making it through the chaos of the COVID-19 pandemic to capitalize on opportunities to be much stronger than we were before. As you read this edition of the *Connections* newsletter, you will learn of the many accomplishments of our excellent faculty, staff and students. And, once you have completed the newsletter, please consider joining us in the coming weeks in May to view a Palmetto College Celebration Video for the Spring 2020 semester as we honor the many successes of our students and colleagues from across Palmetto College.

### Our Students

First, and foremost, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate our students. In this issue, you'll learn more about this year's recipient of the David L. Burggraf Award for adult student learners, students who traveled to

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## 2020 Palmetto College Excellence Awards for Scholarship, Teaching, Service announced

**E**ach spring, the Palmetto College Campuses Excellence Awards for teaching, scholarship and service are announced.

The **John J. Duffy Excellence in Teaching Award for Palmetto College Campuses** has been presented annually since 2009 to a faculty member that exemplifies excellence in and out of the classroom. At April's virtual Palmetto College Faculty Senate Meeting, the 2019-2020 Duffy Teaching Award was presented to **Sarah Hunt Sellhorst**, professor of exercise science at USC Lancaster.

Before deciding to make academia her career, Sellhorst worked in all aspects of health education, from government, to national non-profit, to the private sector. This experience uniquely prepared her to become a well-rounded and successful professor and scholar.

Over the last three years, she has taught courses in three different departments and in many different pedagogical delivery formats. She averages five lectures and two lab courses per semester and a minimum of two courses each summer –most of which are enrolled at capacity or over.

Sellhorst serves as the division chair of the Math, Science, Nursing and Public Health Division and volunteers as co-advisor of the USC Lancaster Research club. She has also co-created three different independent study courses enabling research students to complete the Graduation

with Leadership Distinction program.

She uses everyday examples to explain complex physiology of the human body. This approach has resonated with her students, with one student commenting, “Dr. Sellhorst was an amazing teacher and was extremely thorough about every topic we delved into. She explained everything in a way



*This year's recipients for Palmetto College Excellence Awards include: Sarah Hunt Sellhorst (USC Lancaster), John J. Duffy Excellence in Teaching Award; Maggie Aziz (USC Union), Chris P. Plyler Excellence in Service Award; Fran Gardner (USC Lancaster), Denise R. Shaw Excellence in Service Award.*

that was incredibly understandable... that memorization was not necessary. She was truly one of the best instructors I've ever had, and I hope to have her again.”

Of her own teaching, Sellhorst shared, “I try each day to impart new knowledge to our students with a delivery that I hope instills the love and joy that I have for my craft.”

Sellhorst earned a Ph.D. in exercise physiology from the University of Pittsburgh.

The **Chris P. Plyler Excellence in Service Award for Palmetto College Campuses** has been presented annually since 2015 to a faculty member who personifies excellence in service to the campus, university,

*PC Awards, continued on page 15*



**This Issue's Contributors**

Jane Brewer, Jean Carrano, Margaret Carter, Jason Darby, Shana Dry, Susan Elkins, Stephanie Gruber, Victoria Hollins, Alethia Hummel, Leah Kososki, Christine Sixta Rinehart and Annie Smith.

**Please submit all items for the Fall 2020 issue by Friday, Nov. 13, 2020.**

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

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

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**Palmetto College Online**

Jason Darby – jdarby @ sc.edu

**Military Affairs**

Martha Daniels – daniels1 @ sc.edu

# USC Regional Palmetto Colleges announce Distinguished Teacher of the Year Awards



**Kim Richardson**, associate professor of history, is the recipient of the **USC Lancaster Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award**.



**Marquita Watkins**, assistant professor of chemistry, is the recipient of the **USC Salkehatchie Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award**.



**Austin Jenkins**, senior instructor of biology, is the recipient of the **USC Sumter Student Government Association Teacher of the Year Award**.



**Randy Ivey**, senior instructor of English, is the recipient of the **USC Union Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award**.



**Julia Elliott**, professor of English and women's and gender studies in Palmetto College Columbia, is the recipient of the **Stephen L. Dalton Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award**.

# 2020 USC Palmetto College RISE Grant Summer Research recipients announced

The **Research Initiative for Summer Engagement (RISE)** Grant is a competitive funding program that provides financial support for faculty working at USC's system campuses and online bachelor's degree completion

programs to conduct research and scholarly activities during the summer months.

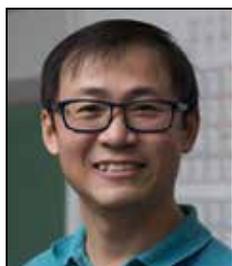
Several USC Palmetto College proposals representing Palmetto College Campuses were funded for Summer 2020.



**Marybeth Berry, USC Lancaster**  
On the Spectrum



**Fidele Ngwane, USC Salkehatchie**  
A novel time series model for drought prediction: South Carolina Case Study



**Li Cai, USC Lancaster**  
Initial Investigation on the Effects of H<sub>2</sub>S-Releasing Wound Dressing on Acceleration of Burn Wound Healing



**Melissa Rack, USC Salkehatchie**  
"Which even of sweetness sweetest sweet'ner art?": Paulus Melissus and Neo-Catullan basia in Sir Philip Sidney's Astrophel and Stella."



**David Dangerfield, USC Salkehatchie**  
Hard Pressed: Free People of Color in Rural Antebellum South Carolina



**Sara Hunt Sellhorst, USC Lancaster**  
Perceptions of Undergraduate Research Participation: A Look at the Faculty Perspective



**Kristina Grob, USC Sumter**  
Embodied Irony: An Emotional Genealogy of American Second-Wave Feminist Beauvoir Scholarship



**Christine Sixta Rinehart, USC Union**  
Confederate Brothers in Arms: The Quattlebaum Family of South Carolina



**Sarah Miller, USC Salkehatchie**  
Watching Over the Ruin: The people and their stories from the Pon Pon Chapel of Ease cemetery



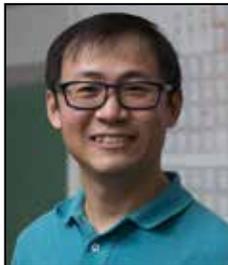
**Rodney Steward, USC Salkehatchie**  
William Woods Holden and the Rise of Civil War Era Populism

# Palmetto College Faculty and Staff Notes

**Brooke Bauer**, assistant professor of history at USC Lancaster, was recently awarded the Andrew W. Mellon Native American Scholars Initiative (NASI) Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the American Philosophical Society (APS) in Philadelphia for the upcoming academic year. The NASI is a prestigious Mellon fellowship that is only open to Native American Scholars, and Bauer was the first and only scholar chosen for 2020-2021.



**Li Cai**, associate professor of chemistry at USC Lancaster, was recently invited to give a second lecture at the China State Institute of Pharmaceutical Industry by his collaborator Qi Gao. They had an opportunity to meet and talk with students while there.



**Jason Darby**, director of marketing and communications for USC Palmetto College, chaired a panel on “Issues in 19th Century Higher Education” at the 49th meeting of the Southern History of Education Society co-hosted by the University of South Carolina and Benedict College.



Darby also recently had a paper, titled *Black alumni and their subsequent successes: The Reconstruction Era at the University of South Carolina, 1873-1877*, co-presented at the annual meeting of the History of Education Society (US) in Columbus, Ohio.

**Sher Downing**, assistant professor of integrated information technology in Palmetto College Columbia, presented “From Online Shopping to Business to Education: How the Crossroads of Ed Technology Should Influence Learning” at the 2019 WCOL World Conference on Online Learning in Dublin, Ireland.



**Kaetrena Davis Kendrick**, associate librarian in USC Lancaster’s Medford Library, is scheduled to present a number of keynote and plenary sessions related to her areas of research and scholarship at various librarianship conferences in the coming months.



These upcoming conference presentations include the Association of Christian Librarians Conference (keynote speaker and facilitator of a discussion session); the Acquisitions Conference (keynote speaker); the Joint Spring Conference of the Kentucky Library Association and the Special Library Association (keynote address); the LOEX Conference (plenary speaker); and the State University of New York Librarians Association Conference (keynote speaker).

**Joseph Mews**, assistant dean for enrollment management for USC Palmetto College, has earned the Strategic Enrollment Management Endorsement from the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers (AACRAO).



Mews is among an elite group of only 35 individuals internationally to earn this endorsement, which signifies that he has developed skills in the field of strategic enrollment management to meet the current and future challenges in the industry. Proficiencies in a variety of aspects of enrollment management have been achieved.

**Justin Mogilski**, assistant professor of psychology at USC Salkehatchie, was recently published in *Frontiers in Psychology* in a section related to Evolutionary Psychology. The journal article, titled “[Life History and Multi-Partner Mating: A Novel Explanation for Moral Stigma Against Consensual Non-monogamy](#),” attempts to explain how moral stigma toward non-monogamy evolved and how these attitudes may be mismatched to the modern environment.



**Leigh Pate**, clinical assistant professor in the UofSC College of Nursing’s Lancaster Program, was selected to be honored by Palmetto Gold, an annual statewide nursing recognition program that showcases the valuable contributions nurses make to patient care in South Carolina and raises funds to provide scholarships for registered nurse students.



**Rodney Steward**, associate professor of history at USC Salkehatchie, recently lectured to the American Civil War Round Table (UK) in London.



# McManus wins Jasper Literary Arts Award

USC Sumter is pleased to announce that English Professor **Ray McManus** was recently named the 2019 Artist of the Year in Literary Arts by the Jasper Project.

The Jasper Project is a multidisciplinary arts facilitator serving the greater Columbia and South Carolina communities by providing collaborative arts engineering and community-wide arts communication. Annually, the organization names winners of the Jasper Awards and includes accolades for artists representing visual arts, theatre, music, literary arts and film.

"We are thrilled and very proud of Dr. McManus and this well-deserved honor," said USC Sumter Dean Michael Sonntag. "It is so exciting when external bodies recognize the level of excellence we have among our faculty."

McManus is a professor of English,

Director of the Center for Oral Narrative, and has recently been appointed director of faculty, curricula and courses for dual enrollment programs in Lexington and Richland counties. Since coming to USC Sumter in 2008, McManus has been selected SGA Professor of the Year five times and he has earned the Stoddard Award, the Olyler Award for excellence in service, and the John J. Duffy Excellence in Teaching Award.

He is the author of three books of poetry: "Punch," "Red Dirt Jesus," and "Driving through the Country before You Are Born," co-author of the anthology "Found Anew," and his poetry and prose have appeared in numerous journals. When he's not teaching, McManus serves as the

Writer-in-Residence for the Columbia Museum of Art and chairs the Board of Governors for the South Carolina Academy of Authors.

"To be recognized for something good at any level is humbling and something one should never take for granted, so I am deeply grateful to everyone who took the time to vote for me for this award. I'm extremely lucky to work with so many wonderful people who inspire me and encourage me to keep going. Whether

that's at USC Sumter, Palmetto College, the Columbia Museum of Art, the Board of Governors for the SC Academy of Authors, or my family, I owe so much to them for anything I am able to do," said McManus.



**Ray McManus**  
USC Sumter

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# USC Salkehatchie faculty rises to the challenge of remote teaching for spring, summer semesters

The faculty and staff at USC Salkehatchie have adapted to keep their classes going amid the Coronavirus outbreak.

When the University of South Carolina System announced, first, that spring break would be extended for one week with all classes transitioning to remote learning and, later continuing through the spring and summer semesters, Salkehatchie faculty planned for the move. Subsequently, when UofSC announced that the remainder of the spring semester would be in the online format, the Lowcountry campuses were prepared.

The transition presented unique challenges.

Some rural students in Salkehatchie's service area do not have home internet and campus is closed, so faculty had to

get creative and collaborate to keep teaching and reaching students wherever they are located.

**David W. Dangerfield**, assistant professor of history, created a Facebook group and recorded content for YouTube in order to keep his students collaborating and learning. "A smart phone is all they need to do 90 percent of our classwork," Dangerfield explained. "Most of us are engaged with social media all of the time, so I moved my classes to a Facebook group -- directly to my students' smartphones."

Most of USC Salkehatchie's faculty are no strangers to online teaching, with the campus offering a number of online bachelor's degree completion programs through Palmetto College Online. Still, completely transitioning all of their classes to

online format is a challenge in the middle of the busy semester, but several teachers say they are taking it in stride.

**Justin Mogilski**, an assistant professor of psychology, views the challenge as an opportunity to sharpen his teaching and tech skills. Mogilski said he is using new software

to "create social experiences during a time when both we and our students will probably feel a bit more isolated." With the new tools that Mogilski is employing, he said that when classes return to normal "we will all be better" teachers and students.

Likewise, **Kirsten Iden**, assistant professor of English, remarked that she has been "struck by the resilience" among both the faculty and students. Iden



**Justin Mogilski**  
USC Salkehatchie



**Kirsten Iden**  
USC Salkehatchie

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*Salk faculty, continued on page 9*

## Salkehatchie, Lancaster campuses donate personal protective equipment to local hospitals

As the COVID-19 pandemic has swept the nation and the state, students, faculty and staff from regional Palmetto College campuses have stepped up to offer assistance to first responders in their local communities. Groups at **USC Lancaster** and **USC Salkehatchie** have gathered personal protective equipment or “PPE” – medical gloves, gowns and N95 respirators – to protect first responders from potential viral infection.

From USC Lancaster’s science labs and nursing simulation lab, PPE was donated to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, MUSC Health: Lancaster Medical Center and Rebound Behavioral Health. Jill Castiglia, Denise Roberts, Courtney Catledge and Greg Parker helped to organize and deliver supplies. USC Salkehatchie’s nursing program also donated supplies such as surgical masks and other useful supplies to Colleton Medical Center and Hampton Regional Medical Center.



## USC Lancaster Players earn high accolades at S.C. Speech and Theatre College Festival



Congratulations to the **USC Lancaster Players** who participated in and won many awards at the South Carolina Speech and Theatre College Festival in February 2020.

Award winners included: **Mary McInville Adamson**, who earned first place in Theatrical Design, second place in Storytelling, second place in Triathlon and third place in Informative Speaking; **Justin Chisholm**, a dual enrollment student, earned first place in Musical Theatre Audition and

second place in Impromptu Speaking; **Regliynn Davis** earned third place in Impromptu Speaking; **Timisha Collins** earned first place in Poetry Interpretation and Audition Monologues; **Loni Mosier** earned third place in Poetry Interpretation; **Kate Evans**, a dual enrollment student, earned third place in Storytelling; **Ava Jopson**, a dual enrollment student, earned second place in Musical Theatre Audition; **Aaron Stevens** earned third place in Audition Monologues; and **Victoria Ward** earned third place in Musical

Theatre Audition.

USC Lancaster students swept the Duet Acting category. First place went to **Taylor Stoneburner** and **Aaron Stevens**; second place was awarded to **Trevor Auman** and Ava Jopson, both dual enrollment students; and third place went to **Victoria Smith** and dual enrollment student Kate Evans.

In addition, USC Lancaster took first place honors in Ensemble Acting and won the overall Sweepstakes Award.

# USC Sumter students win high honors at international business conference

## William Donaldson named Overall Best Student of the Year

Several USC Sumter students won awards at the 75th Annual Society for Advancement of Management (SAM) International Business Conference. Due to social distancing because of COVID-19, this year's conference competitions took place



**Santosh Nandi**  
USC Sumter

virtually through Zoom. The USC Sumter team included **Cody Cottrell, William Donaldson, Jazmyne Jacobs, Joseph Savarese and Cameron Sims.** The team was mentored by **Santosh Nandi,** assistant professor of management.

"I am happy for my students that this remarkable performance at the national/international level has heightened their self-confidence to take on any



**William Donaldson**  
USC Sumter student

challenge in this world... not just their studies," said Nandi. "I can see that this winning legacy will continue benefiting our future Fire Ants. The ball has just started rolling." SAM is a nonprofit organization that promotes scientific study of the principles governing organized efforts in industrial and economic life. At their annual conference, they hold a collegiate business skills championship which analyzes a students' ability to operate as a multi-functional manager utilizing the skills and talent they have developed while enrolled in a collegiate

business program.

Schools are invited to submit a team to compete in one or more events; with an overall champion being declared by school and individual as SAM International Business Skills Champions. This year there were 91



**Cody Cottrell**  
USC Sumter student

competitors from 23 schools and a total of 74 academic presentations from faculty including USC Sumter professors Nandi and **Hennie Van Bulck.** The USC Sumter student team won the coveted Case Presentation Competition and second place for the Overall Best University of the Year. Their case presentation examined how a family-owned



**Jazmyne Jacobs**  
USC Sumter student

traditional media company could revive their business in this ever-changing electronic age. Individual honors were awarded to Cameron Sims, first place for Extemporaneous Speech; Cody Cottrell, first place for Knowledge Bowl; Joseph Savarese, second place for Business Pitch; and William Donaldson, who won the Overall Best Student of the Year along with second place in Extemporaneous Speech, second place in Knowledge Bowl and first place in Business Pitch.

"My sincerest congratulations to these exceptional students and to Dr.

Nandi. Winning these contests is most impressive in itself; doing so under current conditions and limitations, even more so," said **Eric Reisenauer,** executive associate dean for academic and student affairs. "These results confirm what I have known for a long



**Joseph Savarese**  
USC Sumter student

time. USC Sumter is an impressive and amazing campus with top-notch students and faculty." "It was a rough road filled with many doubts, frustrations, and late nights. At different times all five team members felt overwhelmed. In my opinion, it was during those dark moments that our team shined the brightest. We began supporting one another, we quit being five individuals



**Cameron Sims**  
USC Sumter student

and became a team, the Fire Ant team," said William Donaldson, USC Sumter SAM team member. "None of this would have happened without the mentorship of Dr. Santosh Nandi. Not only was he instrumental in bringing this competition to our campus doorstep, he led us through that door and brought USC Sumter onto a national/international championship stage. Dr. Nandi devoted his personal time to answer our questions, he explained complex management theories to us, and took the time to meet or call us when he felt our morale was waning," added Donaldson.



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## Groves earns 2020 Burggraf Award for highest GPA among adult student learners

**B**ret Clinton Groves II, a senior organizational leadership major, is the 2020 recipient of the **David L. Burggraf Award** for adult student learners. The award is given annually in recognition of a student – 25 years of age and older – with the highest grade point average in Palmetto College’s Liberal Studies and Organizational Leadership programs or in UofSC Columbia’s Elementary Education online and hybrid bachelor’s degree completion programs.

Groves started taking courses at USC Union’s Laurens location during the Fall 2016 semester as a nontraditional student, after having previously spent time managing a motel in Jackson Hole, Wyo. In addition to taking full load of coursework each semester in Laurens, he has managed

to balance his responsibilities as a supervisor at the Walmart Distribution Center and his role as a family man raising five children. He has even found time to keep up with his hobby as an excellent banjo player. All the while, he has maintained a flawless academic record, having never made anything less than an A in any class he’s ever taken in the program.

Groves is routinely acknowledged by many faculty as one of the strongest students they have had in their classes, and he has received a number of scholarships and accolades to reinforce that sentiment. He graduated last spring with Associate

of Science and Associate of Arts degrees from USC Union, before entering into the Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership program through Palmetto College Online. This has allowed him to remain within his community as he completes that bachelor’s degree, and he has continued to be extremely successful.



**Bret Clinton Groves II**  
USC Union alumnus  
UofSC organizational leadership major

The David L. Burggraf Award is named for the former director of Adult Student Services who devoted most of his career to the success of adult students at the University of South Carolina.

## USC Union mourns the loss of two student-athletes

**U**SC Union and its surrounding communities have been mourning the loss of two student-athletes that were killed in a head-on collision.

On Feb. 7, four Lady Bantam softball players were traveling from Spartanburg back to Union after watching a friend play softball. A driver crossed the median and hit them head on. Freshman **Mia Stokes** of Charlotte, N.C., died at the scene and sophomore **Grace Revels**, of Lancaster, S.C., was transported to the hospital where she later died. Mia’s twin sister, **Mallory Stokes**, and driver **Devyn Royce** were also transported to the hospital for their injuries.

Mia was a freshman at USC Union studying physical therapy and played third base for the Lady Bantam Softball

Team. Grace, a sophomore at USC Union, was studying to go into Special Education. She was the catcher for the Lady Bantams.

Saturday, Feb. 15, marked the first time that the Lady Bantams would take the field since the loss of their teammates. The teammates played their hearts out during the emotional games and took home two wins over Patrick Henry Community College.

All Bantam athletes, faculty, staff, students, and many members of the Union community attended a memorial service hosted by USC Union on Feb. 21 at the Lady Bantam softball field.

Representative Doug Gilliam (S.C. Dist. 42) conveyed his support to the campus and to the families of deceased, and introduced Congressman Ralph Norman. Norman, who represents the state’s 5th Congressional District, expressed his condolences and

presented both families with a United States flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol.

Due to overwhelming response from the community to offer support during the tragic loss of Grace and Mia, USC



**Grace Revels**

Union established two opportunities to donate in their memory. One opportunity is a fund that was started for a new scoreboard that will have Grace and Mia’s names and numbers on it at the field for future Lady Bantams

games. The second opportunity that was established was the “Grace Revels and Mia Stokes Memorial Scholarship.” This scholarship will provide support for a female athlete attending USC Union with an overall GPA of 3.0 or above.

Keep up-to-date with the University’s continuing response to the coronavirus pandemic on the [UofSC COVID-19 landing page](#).

## Gaines named Salk women's head basketball coach

USC Salkehatchie is pleased to announce that **Olivia Gaines** will be the new head women's basketball coach for the 2020-2021 season.

"I am extremely excited to get my dream job," Gaines said. "My goal was to be a junior college coach, as the experience meant so much to me. I can't thank Ms. Brewer enough for believing in me. Also, I want to thank Coach Mayo who is now on the men's side who believed in me as well. I can't wait to impact these students' lives. This opportunity is a blessing and I am truly thankful."



**Olivia Gaines**  
USC Salkehatchie

Gaines is a native of Chester, S.C. She comes to USC Salkehatchie following a stint at Vassar College.

Gaines previously coached at the high school level including Andrew Jackson High School, Fort Dorchester High School and Cross High School and was very successful at all three. Gaines also served as an assistant coach at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, a NCAA Division II School.

Along with coaching experience, Coach Gaines brings a rich playing experience. She began her college career at Louisburg

College where she was awarded National Player of the Year and won a National Championship in 2013. After her tenure at Louisburg College, Gaines played for the University of South Carolina where she was able to help the Gamecocks make it to the NCAA Division I Sweet 16 in 2014 and Final Four in 2015.

"We are very impressed with Coach Gaines," Director of Athletics Jane Brewer said. "Her enthusiasm and excitement about joining us as well as her jumping right in to work as soon as she signed her offer letter are great signs of her future success. And we absolutely love having that connection to our big sister team, the Lady Gamecocks."

## Women's Soccer Program added at USC Sumter

USC Sumter is proud to announce the addition of women's soccer to their seven successful NJCAA Region X Division I Intercollegiate Athletics programs; the new program launched this semester. Recruitment is ongoing as the season is set to begin in the Fall 2020 semester.

"We're excited to bring back our women's soccer program. We've received a lot of support already from the community and USC Sumter student body," said USC Sumter Director of Athletics **Adrienne Cataldo**.

**Joshua Long** has been chosen to lead the new team. Before coming

to USC Sumter, Long was the head coach for the boys' varsity soccer team at Sumter High School. Previously, he was the varsity and junior varsity coach for the girls' soccer teams at Sumter High School, and the coach for the girls' junior varsity soccer team at Carolina Forest High School. Long's combined record as a high school coach is 47-35. Long also worked as a STEM Teacher at Alice Drive Middle School for three years before

coming to USC Sumter. Long graduated from Coastal Carolina University with a bachelor's degree in recreation and sport management and a minor in journalism.

"I'm excited about this new journey and look forward to a great opening season for the women's soccer program," said Long. With social distancing currently in place, the team held a virtual information meeting for prospective players on April 15.



**Joshua Long**  
USC Sumter



**Congratulations  
to USC Lancaster  
on reaching its  
Diamond Jubilee!**

### Salk faculty, continued from page 5

is one of many faculty and staff members who have offered to help with materials and tech advice for colleagues who might have less experience with online instruction. As Dangerfield put it, "our campus strength is that we are a dedicated community. We are pulling through this as a team."

USC Salkehatchie's campuses in Walterboro and Allendale serve Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton and Hampton counties.

*Partially reprinted from [The Augusta Chronicle](#).*

# Fish hits the mark with USC Union club rifle team

When **Doug Gilliam** was coaching the Union County High School Rifle team and taking them to competitions, he often heard the name of Clover High School Air Force JROTC Marksmanship Team member **Brianna Fish**.

Competing for Clover, Fish won an Air Force Individual National Championship, Air Force Team National Championship, Orion Air Rifle League Air Force Championship, the highly coveted Distinguished Shooter Badge as well as many other awards and titles.

Little did Gilliam know, one day he would be Fish's college coach at USC Union, the coach for the only club rifle team in the UofSC system, that Fish would be the only member, and that she would qualify to compete in the National Championship at Fort Benning, Ga., in March. She did this after outshooting the entire Clemson University Rifle Team Club in the Collegiate Air Rifle Sectional Championship match at the University of North Georgia on Jan. 18.

"She did extremely well," Gilliam said. "They break those who qualify into teams and I was told before we left that with her score and her consistency, in the 90s on every target, she is more than likely going to make the first team. That's a big deal. That is the best of those who qualify. Clemson won the club championship last year as a team and Bri lit them up."

Only one person had a higher score than Fish, a Georgia Military College student who is a veteran shooter.

Gilliam, a retired command sergeant major in the Army National Guard who coached the rifle team before being elected to the S.C. House of Representatives, said he enjoyed coaching and missed it and asked USC Union Dean **John Catalano** if he had

ever considered offering a Rifle Team to the club sports menu.

"I told him I would volunteer, it would not cost anything but the equipment to get started," Gilliam said.

Catalano agreed. The decision was not finalized until the end of August,



*University of South Carolina President Bob Caslen presents a UofSC Coin of Excellence to USC Union student Brianna Fish.*

which left little time for recruiting.

Fish's high school coach, SMSgt Clarence Woodham, learned that USC Union was starting a team, told Fish and contacted Gilliam. Then, she was a nursing student at the University of South Carolina who was considering transferring to USC Lancaster.

"I thought I would check it out and see if I had rather do that than go to Lancaster," she said.

Fish, the daughter of Scott and Jackie Fish, came with her mother for a tour. She said the fact that the school has a nursing program and she was able to move into brand new student housing across the road from the Central Building were wonderful selling points. After she completes her nursing degree she plans to get a master's degree and become a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA).

She said the match at the University of North Georgia was the first in which she had competed in two years.

"I was a little rusty when I first started

out but I got back into it pretty quick," she said.

"I knew she was good," Gilliam said. "And I knew she would compete."

Gilliam said Catalano does a great job of promoting the university and he thanked him for agreeing to allow the rifle team. USC Union also offers soccer and baseball for men and softball for women. Catalano said affordable, quality housing is a plus.

"All three of the units are within a year old and we are about to expand the units on Lakeside and Seigler," he said. "That makes all the difference to have a nice place that is designated for college students at a reasonable price. How can you recruit kids from out of the county if you don't have something to show them? Another thing is, [Fish] is a really good student and is

interested in nursing. If we didn't have a nursing program, she wouldn't be here. Two things happened in one year. We added a nursing program and we added student housing that allows us to bring people like Brianna here that we couldn't have thought of bringing to Union before."

"And now, she is shooting for a national championship," Catalano said.

Gilliam said Fish is a workhorse who is still learning. She shot sporter rifles in high school. In college, she is competing in precision. The differences include stances: those who compete in sporter class compete in prone, kneeling and standing positions. Standing, which is more difficult, is the only stance in precision. Still, she made amazing scores, Gilliam said.

Catalano said next year, with more time to recruit, the team will be bigger, but not necessarily better, considering Fish's accomplishments.

Gilliam said he planned to recruit at the "Best of the Best" competition in

Lexington, N.C., this year.

"I asked the dean, how many can I recruit, and he said basically as many as we can get," Gilliam said. "A lot of colleges don't have rifle teams."

Catalano said the fact that Gilliam is the volunteer coach without a salary leaves more money to equip the team.

"If he recruits 10 students that will be

a big thing for the campus and for the community when 10 more people come from out of the county," he said.

But sports are not what it is all about, Catalano said. "The whole athletic department last year had better than a 3.1 GPA," he said. "We are not bringing the wrong kids here. They have also upped the average level of our incoming

SAT scores. The faculty come to me and say, 'My best students are the athletes'."

All athletes are required to check into their classes and freshmen must attend a mandatory study hall.

*Reprinted from Union County News*

## Smalls receives Jefferson Award for act of kindness

The smallest of gestures can have the greatest impact. **Kevin Smalls**, instructor of criminal justice at USC Salkehatchie and a Colleton County sheriff's deputy, took the time to listen, took the time to act and chartered a new course for a complete stranger. [Because of his actions](#), Smalls was awarded a Jefferson Award on-air by Charleston television station [ABC News 4](#).

On Christmas day 2019, Smalls saw Joey Brown traveling from Ft. Myers, Fla., to Hampton, Va., nearly a thousand miles, by foot. Brown had already walked 16 days when Lt. Smalls helped him out with a bus ticket.

He was on patrol Christmas morning bright and early when he first saw the man... when he first heard the voice.

"I heard the voice say, 'You are gonna help this guy out later.' I was like, 'What?'" Smalls said.

Five hours later, there he was again more than three miles from where Smalls first saw him.

"The road off of Sydney, I could have gotten there quicker. At the last minute, I heard, 'Take Industrial Road,' and lo and behold, there he was again," Smalls explained.

Smalls knew something bigger was at play.

"When you put your faith in God and build that trust, it comes from hearing. In the Bible, it says don't be a hearer, but a doer," he added.

Brown was traveling from Ft. Myers, Fla. to Hampton, Va., nearly a thousand miles, by foot.

Brown had already walked 16 days when Smalls offered him a ride to the county line, but the voice returned. There would be a slight detour.

"I believe God speaks to all of us in different forms and different ways. I heard, 'Hey, you need to take him to the bus station. The closer we got, I heard, 'Hey, you need to make sure he gets home,'" said Smalls.

Smalls took Brown to the Greyhound bus stop and

bought him a ticket to Virginia.

"When you help out others and you make sacrifices, God is moved and pleased by those sacrifices," said Smalls.



*A Christmas gift: An act of kindness from Kevin Smalls, instructor of criminal justice at USC Salkehatchie, allowed a man to shorten the trip from Florida to Virginia to see his family during the holiday season.*

Smalls learned about sacrifice at an early age. His father, Trooper Bruce Smalls, was a S.C. Highway Patrol trooper when he was shot and killed in the line of duty in 1985. Kevin was two years old.

"I look at my life and all that I have been through and I can relate to so many people. I can relate to people who lost a mother, a father and both. I can relate to people who have been homeless, and I can talk to people who have walked different places and gone through different struggles," said Smalls.

Smalls worked through his struggles and earned a master's degree. He spends his extra time teaching college courses in criminal justice.

"The things I do, the things I have accomplished, it's not for me, it's for someone else," he explained.

His direction comes from his

earthly father.

"This is a way to honor him. This is continuing his legacy by going further than what he did," said Smalls.

It also comes from his heavenly father, who spoke to him Christmas morning.

The [Jefferson Awards Foundation](#) (now known as Multiplying Good) was established in 1972 by former U.S. First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Senator Robert Taft Jr. and Sam Beard. Over the past four decades, the list of Jefferson Award recipients is unparalleled. They include hundreds of national figures – both public and private – more than 63,000 unsung heroes, and tens of thousands of employees and young people in communities across the country.

# Torres, Edwards take USC Union students to Costa Rica for spring break cultural experience

During Spring Break 2020, **Kevin Torres**, instructor of Spanish at USC Union, and **Lynn Edwards**, USC Union nursing administrator, took six USC Union students to Costa Rica to learn about the culture. The students had to apply to go on the trip, and they received course credit. Even though they exhibited no symptoms, they had to quarantine themselves for two weeks due to the COVID-19 pandemic when they returned to the United States from travel abroad.

Torres began his career within the University of South Carolina System in Fall 2016 and joined the USC Union faculty in Fall 2017. While teaching is his true passion, he has also served as a medical interpreter for hospitals in both South Carolina and North Carolina. In addition to fluency in English, Spanish and French, Torres also speaks Italian, German and Russian. He has traveled extensively to Panamá, México, Puerto Rico, Colombia, Curaçao, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

Torres shares highlights of the trip abroad in his own words:

*“Imagine always dreaming of being able to bring the pictures from a textbook to life in front of the eyes of your students. Imagine dreaming of being able to see the reactions of your students as they step foot into a foreign country for the very first time and hearing ‘¡Pura Vida!’ accompanied by a breeze from the mountains that acted as if it were a hug welcoming you to the country. This dream became a reality for me, six students from USC Union and my colleague, Lynn Edwards during Spring Break 2020.*

*Traveling from the lively and welcoming city of San José to the Arenal region and to Monteverde where forests, wildlife and the majestic landscapes bring to your very eyes the natural beauty of Costa Rica and then traveling to the Pacific Coast. On the Pacific Coast, we stepped foot onto a beach where volcanic minerals had changed the color of the sand as if it were creating the illusion of walking among the stars from its dark and glossy fine texture and it is there that we had the opportunity to enjoy a sunset that leaves vibrant*

*heavenly colors in the sky even after the sun has completely set.*

*Words simply cannot describe the adventure in its entirety which included zip lining, swimming in hot springs, a tour of a coffee plantation, a crocodile tour, enjoying typical Costa*



*Rican dishes, and experiencing life in Costa Rica. To be able to go beyond the pages and witness your students experience what textbooks can only describe in words and pictures, is an opportunity that leaves a profound sentiment of happiness and a memory that is to be cherished for a lifetime.*

*The world is a giant classroom and I hope that students take advantage of that classroom as well as the lessons and experiences that it has to offer by going beyond the pages and experiencing it firsthand. Augustine of Hippo probably said it best: ‘The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page.’”*

# Lowell and Cai receive UofSC Distinguished Research Service Awards

**Randy Lowell**, associate dean of academic affairs and associate professor of psychology at USC Union, and **Li Cai**, associate professor of chemistry at USC Lancaster, are recipients of the 2020 Distinguished Research Service Award. The award was instituted in 2018 by the Office of the Vice President for Research to recognize University of South Carolina faculty members who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to internal research programs.

They were selected based on their service to research programs at USC Lancaster and USC Union, respectively. The programs have led to enhancing research on the campuses and scholarly activities.

Randy Lowell began teaching at USC Union in August 2012, transitioning into an administrative role as academic dean in January 2016. During his tenure at the campus, he has taught a number of different psychology courses in various delivery formats (i.e. traditional, online, videoconference).

He has also made it a priority to work with students on independent research beyond the classroom in his Perception, Attention, Language and Memory (PALM) Psychology Lab on campus, through which students have assisted with his research agenda, but have also initiated new lines of inquiry along the way. This work with student research

helped to spawn the USC Union Research Club that Lowell formed with a student research assistant, which he continues to direct on campus.

The club exposes students to a variety of research experiences across a wide range of disciplines, while facilitating connections between students and faculty that may lead to new scholarly collaborations. Members of the club have presented their research at Discover UofSC in Columbia and at the Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA) in Charleston, S.C., and Jacksonville, Fla. The club also presents an opportunity to students to graduate with a Graduation with Leadership Distinction (GLD) with their engagement with research.

Lowell received the USC Union Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award in 2019.

Li Cai began teaching at USC Salkehatchie in 2011, before joining the faculty of USC Lancaster in 2017. In his time at both regional Palmetto College campuses, he has been a prolific researcher and publisher who has worked to foster

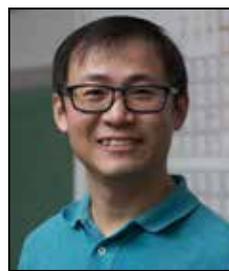
undergraduate researchers – including mentoring eight undergraduate researchers. Li has fostered research as a reviewer for the *UofSC Caravel Undergraduate Research Journal* and a judge for Discover UofSC presentations.

He has been highly involved with research at a university level, receiving several awards to further his work as a teacher and his research as an organic chemist and glyco-scientist, including the UofSC Research Initiative for Summer Engagement (RISE) program, five times; the UofSC Advanced Support for Innovative Research Excellence (ASPIRE) program and the UofSC Support for Minority Advancement in Research Training (SMART) program, twice. Some of his other previous awards have included the 2017 UofSC Breakthrough Star Award

and the 2016 USC Salkehatchie Faculty Award for Excellence in Scholarship. He has published more than 29 peer-reviewed papers in chemical research and education (among 50 publications total) since joining the UofSC faculty.



**Randy Lowell**  
USC Union



**Li Cai**  
USC Lancaster

## USC Sumter sends care packages to active-duty military members overseas



**T**he Student Veteran Organization at USC Sumter recently held a donation drive to collect items for military care packages that were shipped to active duty military service members who are deployed overseas.

The drive was organized by USC Sumter Military Services Counselor **Nada M. Wilson**.

“Receiving care packages is always like Christmas while on deployment,” said Wilson. “It is truly amazing when soldiers receive care packages from people other than family members. Knowing that other people take time to think about us makes it much easier to serve and fight for our country.”

Some things the group collected included non-perishable snacks, personal hygiene products, games and entertainment items.

Costa Rica on the eve of the pandemic, students honored for accomplishments in theatre, athletics, marksmanship and those who took top honors in a virtual international business conference. I would also like to recognize and thank the nursing students and faculty on our Palmetto College campuses and Palmetto College Online. Many are working on the front lines with COVID-19 patients. We are very grateful for your service!

### Our Campuses

We also celebrate the accomplishments of our campuses this year, even though many events were abbreviated at the onset of our “new normal.” As the oldest of our regional Palmetto College campuses, USC Lancaster became the first to celebrate 60 years of service. USC Salkehatchie’s men’s basketball team celebrated an unprecedented season, resulting in its first NJCAA Region X title. Unfortunately, the national tournament was cancelled this year; however, we know that they are champions, nonetheless! USC Sumter and USC Union both celebrated record enrollment numbers this year. Sumter’s Fall 2019 enrollment of 1,360 students was 24 percent higher than the previous fall and marked the highest enrollment in 22 years. Union also marked all-time enrollment highs in both the fall (1,153 students) and spring (1,162 students) semesters. Extended University was reborn as “Palmetto College Columbia” and marked its new era with the launch of Palmetto Pathway, a program that allowed some of our freshmen to live and study at the Columbia campus.

### Our Faculty

Our faculty have been quite busy! You have accomplished the unbelievable by quickly adapting all of your classes to a completely remote learning format during the week of spring break. On behalf of our students, thank you so much for your extraordinary efforts! I would also like to acknowledge the great advocacy and leadership of **Christine Rinehart** during her two-year tenure as Palmetto College Faculty Senate chair, particularly since she originally stepped in to fill an unanticipated vacancy at the beginning of her tenure. She led the senate during a time of transition for the university as we gained a new president and she served on the committee to select a new provost. In addition, Rinehart led the senate during the onset of the pandemic and worked on the team that planned our response and transition to a fully remote

learning format.

I would also like to extend my congratulations to faculty members across Palmetto College for their many accomplishments and accolades this year, including this year’s winners of the Duffy, Plyer and Shaw Awards – **Sarah Sellhorst**, **Maggie Aziz** and **Fran Gardner**, respectively. Please join me in congratulating them, as well as in congratulating your colleagues who earned distinguished teaching awards from their individual campuses and faculty who earned Distinguished Research Service Awards from the university.

### Our Staff

In addition to our outstanding faculty, Palmetto College is blessed to have an extraordinary staff that constantly and consistently supports the work of our faculty and students! Our new normal has added extra duties for many

staff members, and they have risen to the challenge. In particular, I would like to recognize our stellar Palmetto College IT Department led by USC Lancaster graduate **Bob Dyer**. When we quickly needed to make the transition to total remote learning and telecommuting, our IT heroes were there to continually support the needs of students, faculty and staff. I would also like to recognize the work of our safety and security teams, human resources leaders, communications managers and enrollment management professionals. These individuals and others have played a critical role in making sure that we’re able to both function and advance in this time of uncertainty.

**Three key accomplishments across Palmetto College during this semester and academic year include:**

- 1. Record enrollment gain;**
- 2. Implementation of Palmetto College Campuses Salary Study recommendations; and**
- 3. Participation in President Caslen’s strategic planning process.**

### Key Accomplishments

Finally, I would like to acknowledge three key accomplishments across Palmetto College during this semester and academic year: (1) record enrollment gain; (2) implementation of Palmetto College Campuses Salary Study recommendations; and (3) participation in President Caslen’s strategic planning process.

Regarding enrollment growth on the regional Palmetto College campuses and in Palmetto College Online, we have celebrated record enrollment again during the Spring 2020 semester following three milestones in Fall 2019: (1) exceeding the 6,000 mark for total headcount enrollment for the first time; (2) breaking the 5,000 mark for the total headcount enrollment of the regional Palmetto College

campuses combined; and (3) breaking the 1,100 mark with total headcount enrollment in Palmetto College Online. In the spring, we achieved 5,730 overall headcount enrollment, a total of 4,538 headcount enrollment on the regional Palmetto College campuses and a total of 1,076 in Palmetto College Online.

As a result of the recent salary study, implementation of the study's recommendations began in March with 71 faculty and staff receiving equity adjustments.

The strategic planning process led by President Caslen is near completion, with Palmetto College being involved with

strategic priorities for both UofSC Columbia and the UofSC System.

## In Closing

For those of you who will be off this summer, enjoy your break and we'll look forward to seeing you in the fall either physically or virtually... as conditions dictate. For those who will continue to work through the summer in one capacity or another, have a great summer as we move forward toward the fall! Though these are indeed challenging times, we welcome the opportunity and also extend wishes of safety and well-being to you and your loved ones.

## PC Awards, continued from page 1

community and profession. The 2019-2020 Plyler Service Award was presented to **Maggie Aziz**, assistant professor of sociology at USC Union.

Aziz's service to her campus includes being the director of the Student Academic Success Center and serving as lead principal investigator in a student support services program grant proposal. She was the organizer of many events, including student academic workshops, the National Custodial Worker Day fundraiser and luncheon and the Blood Connection Blood Drive. Aziz also organized and coordinated the first annual Fresh Check Day, a mental health awareness and suicide prevention event that involves student-led booths featuring a variety of issues such as suicide prevention and alcohol safety.

Her service to Palmetto College and the University include serving on the Palmetto College Specialty Teams Subcommittee for GSS Assessment, the Palmetto College Online Course Development Grant Committee and the Palmetto College Faculty Senate Rights and Responsibilities Committee. She has served as a Magellan Scholar reviewer and as a board member for UofSC's Caravel Undergraduate Research Journal where she reviewed student article submissions.

Aziz's service to the community extends to the Union Carnegie Library Speaker Series Program, the Saint Rafka Middle Eastern Food Festival and the Palestine Children's Relief Fund, which provides medical and humanitarian relief to children in the Middle East. She has been a commencement speaker for the Union Christian Day School and participated in the USC Union Career Fair, as well as the "Pie Your Professor" event on campus to raise funds for Dawn Staley's Innersole Project, which donates sneakers to children who are homeless or in need, nationally and internationally.

As service to her profession, Aziz has reviewed 13 articles since Fall 2016 for peer-reviewed journals, including *Sociology of Religion*, *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, and *Journal for the Scientific Study*.

Of her own service, Aziz shared, "I have made it a habit

when creating and identifying opportunities for service to assess the significance of each activity in relation to facilitating the fulfillment of my academic responsibilities and evaluating how they advance the institutional mission... Simply put, the goal of my service work is to bridge the gap between needs and resources."

Aziz earned a Ph.D. in international family and community studies from Clemson University.

The **Denise R. Shaw Excellence in Scholarship Award for Palmetto College Campuses** has been presented annually since 2017 to a faculty member who exhibits outstanding scholarship and/or creative achievement. The 2019-2020 Shaw Scholarship Award has been presented to **Fran Gardner**, professor of art and art history at USC Lancaster.

Gardner's work focuses on women's voices, issues and opportunities as they are heard and experienced in the current cultural landscape. In the past three years, she has presented five juried exhibitions and seven invitational exhibitions. She has had two of her pieces written about in a single book. Additionally, she has authored three essays, been selected as curator in a competitive process, and judged a national exhibition. More recently, she was inducted to the National Association of Women Artists.

Gardner is sought out for her expertise in writing, curating, and speaking on contemporary art. She has taught and consulted with artists in numerous workshops and artists retreats, all while serving as the humanities division chair at USC Lancaster, supervising 27 faculty members.

Of her own scholarship, Gardner shared, "Like written language, art is communication, expressing through the visual what is difficult and sometimes impossible to explain in words... I, through my creative work, aim to be an example for my students of a sustainable artistic life and a conduit for conversations around issues of our place and time."

Gardner earned a MFA from Vermont College of Norwich University.

# Salk basketball alums move onto complete bachelor's degrees and competition in NCAA programs

Three members of the USC Salkehatchie men's basketball team will graduate this May after leading their team to a record-breaking season, setting the record for season wins and winning the first NJCAA Region X Championship in Salkehatchie history. The team finished the season 27-4 overall. They qualified for the NJCAA National Tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas, for only the second time in school history, earning a first round bye with a No. 7 seed in this year's tournament.

At the conclusion of the successful season, Head Basketball Coach **Jake Williams** was named the "Region X Coach of the Year" for his efforts in leading the team. Williams was the first coach in school history to put together back-to-back 20-win seasons and he topped that by setting a school record for wins in his third season

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic prematurely ended a further title run; however, several graduating members of the squad will advance to complete their bachelor's degrees and compete at NCAA institutions.



**Vince Cole** will receive his associate degree in May and will attend school, and play, at St. John's University this upcoming academic year. Vince was

selected NJCAA Region X Player of the Year for a second consecutive year and he was also named NJCAA Region X 1st team All-American.



**Keyon Wesley** will graduate with his associate degree in May and will attend Arkansas State University next year, where he also plans to play basketball.



**Ahmad Rand** will receive his Associate of Arts degree in May and will attend Memphis University and play there next year. He was an NJCAA Region X

All-Region player this past year and he led the nation in blocked shots.

**University of South Carolina Palmetto College**

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