

UP

A magazine for alumni and friends of the
University of South Carolina Upstate

FALL/WINTER 2020-2021

FAMILY MATTERS

*Upstate ties run deep
in some homes*



Coffee Culture
Alum shares flavors of
Colombia at his café

Meet the Class of 2024
Upstate welcomes a
new freshman class

Have Degree, Will Travel
Nurses find adventure
far from home

Global Career Symposium: Leading a Remote Workforce

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. | University Readiness Center, USC Upstate
301 N. Campus Blvd., Spartanburg



Join us for a FREE panel discussion with global industry leaders on strategies for developing and sustaining a remote workforce. Then enjoy breakout roundtable conversations with USC Upstate students. Covid-related protocols will be observed.

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Letter from
THE CHANCELLOR

Our beautiful campus is quieter than I'd like, but I fully anticipate that as we turn the page on 2020, we can look forward to seeing more of you on campus. We can be tremendously proud of what we have accomplished this year, despite the very real distraction of keeping our campus community safe during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Out of challenge so often comes growth. Both faculty and students continue to grow in their knowledge and use of the technologies that help ensure remote teaching and learning online are engaging, productive experiences. Dr. Emily Kofoed leads the way in creating innovative ways to keep her communications and public speaking students interested in the course material. We feature Dr. Kofoed in an article that showcases the university's response to the pandemic. Our students continued to participate in community service projects this fall, despite the challenges of gathering. My wife, Suzy, was thrilled to have been inducted as an honorary member of IMPACT, our student-led service organization. She and our young children donned masks to join students and Dr. Deb Klavivko in service learning programs on campus, including one in which they created sock puppets to accompany children's books to be

shared with underserved families. I'm pretty sure my kids won't remember the masks; they will remember our students and "Llama Llama and the Lucky Pajamas," and Suzy and I will cherish the opportunity to have watched them grow through the experience. USC Upstate grew this semester in its understanding of how issues of racial injustice impact our campus. I was proud to participate in our "Be the Bridge" peaceful protest, and especially proud of the student-athletes who saw a need and rallied their fellow Spartans to bring the event to fruition. I was moved by the heartfelt, honest and eloquent words of the "Be the Bridge" speakers. The passion our students demonstrated has spread to other new initiatives that highlight our core values. Our dialogue around equity and inclusion expanded, and I'm grateful to the faculty, staff and students who are more committed than ever to ensuring these values are embedded in our campus culture. We learned this year that even a pandemic can't stop Donette Stewart, who so capably leads our Admissions and Enrollment Services division. In this issue, we learn more about what motivates Vice Chancellor Stewart and why USC Upstate continues to attract some of the state's most gifted students.

Our feature about legacy families serves to illustrate the lasting impacts of a positive student experience. We introduce you to four different families, all of whom share their personal stories and insights about why USC Upstate was not only the right choice for one individual, but was right for siblings, spouses, even a special grandmother and her grandson. For alum Carlos Andres Camargo, going back to college had been a dream. In our Alumni Spotlight, you'll find out how USC Upstate helped fulfill the dream and why the owner of Greenville's Unlocked Coffee attributes some of his success to his economics professors. New programs keep our course offerings fresh. We're pleased to offer six new majors in our George Dean Johnson, Jr. College of Business and Economics, including accounting, marketing and entrepreneurship and innovation. These programs are significant in that they provide new opportunities for growing the experiential learning for which we have become known, and preparing our students for employment upon graduation. Kim Jolley, who joined the university in the spring, provides an update on the growth her Advancement team has experienced despite the pandemic. A generous gift from Spartanburg's Poole family will benefit the campus community

for years to come, and this year's Giving Tuesday event was our most successful. Finally, we pay tribute to our December graduates who, like those who graduated in May, celebrated their accomplishments with a virtual ceremony and a Graduate Car Parade. The parade, too, grew and because it was enjoyed by so many, I expect that we'll carry on this new tradition long after COVID-19 has been conquered for good. Together, we grow, continuing on our UPward trajectory to achieve new levels of educational excellence.


J. Derham Cole, Jr.
Interim Chancellor

SPARTANBURG COUNTY
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HIGHER EDUCATION

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USC Upstate Responds to COVID Crisis

Life on campus morphed almost overnight as USC Upstate students, faculty and staff learned with the rest of the country that COVID-19 was spreading rapidly in the United States. Spring Break 2020 was interrupted by messages instructing students to stay home, rather than return to campus. Professors scrambled to learn online platforms to ensure that their students could finish the semester’s coursework, while university leadership enrolled in a crash course on how to keep a campus safe during a pandemic.

Preparing for an unusual fall semester, USC Upstate published its Spartan Safe Start Plan and a Campus Reopening and Mitigation Plan, which details preventive measures. The university was an early adopter of face coverings, social distancing and hand hygiene. A COVID-19 Response Team, co-chaired by Mary Bucher, special assistant to the chancellor for Public Health, and Shirleatha Lee, dean of the Mary Black School of Nursing, worked closely with leaders across campus to establish health and safety protocols for classrooms and common areas.



Students continue to model Spartan pride and safety protocols, having pledged at the beginning of the semester to do their part to help protect the campus community.

“Our challenge was to balance the need for a positive learning environment with the realities we all faced, and continue to face, during this ongoing COVID-19 pandemic,” said Interim Chancellor Derham Cole. “The COVID-19 Response Team uses the latest data available to advise departments across campus about how best to minimize spread of the virus.”

One of the best ways to mitigate spread, of course, is to limit the number of students in classrooms at any one time. To help facilitate communication between professors and students, both those on site and those learning from home, the university installed cameras in all classrooms. The cameras enable faculty to engage with students in real time, providing interaction between

professors and students and mimicking as closely as possible the normal experience of teaching and learning.

“One of the biggest challenges for me is not having non-verbal feedback,” says Emily Kofoed, assistant professor of Communications Studies. “I actually didn’t realize myself how paralyzing it could be to not have a room of people whose reactions I could immediately read. So, I’ve had to adapt to finding new ways to get people to share how they’re feeling or what they’re thinking.”

Kofoed admits that as a rhetorician, she has had a bit of an advantage in meeting the challenges of online teaching, but stresses that techniques she has found helpful are not difficult to achieve.

“There are several ways you can go about making the online environment more engaging,” she says. “Part of it lies in making sure there are stakes attached to what you’re doing, whether there’s a quiz related to the lesson, or an assignment that requires feedback, or asking students to pair up, all of which

Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Public Health Mary Bucher continues to guide the university in its response to COVID-19, providing updates as state and national experts issue new data, while managing testing and contact tracing on campus.



New cameras allow professors like Emily Kofoed to connect with both students in the classroom and those learning from home.

can make students feel more connected to the work. I don’t believe, for instance, that people can always watch one video and absorb and understand the content. It’s a process. I like synchronous classes because of the opportunity for students to learn from one another through their interactions.”

Despite difficulties around gathering, faculty and students continue to participate in service learning, which has provided another way to remain

engaged on an unusually quiet campus. Seeking to serve the Upstate community during the pandemic, Senior Nursing Instructor, Latasha Gooden, with the support of the Mary Black School of Nursing, partnered with the Charles Lea Center and Palladium Hospice & Palliative Care to initiate the COVID-19 Virtual Interaction Outreach program. Since May, the program has provided nursing students and faculty volunteers with opportunities to

connect virtually with individuals who reside in a residential care facility, extending to them much-needed comfort, emotional support, and encouragement. Additionally, Upstate nursing volunteers could be spotted during the fall delivering food for Cherokee County Meals on Wheels.

Students in Ginny Webb’s Microbiology class (BIOL 330) aim to spread awareness of various infectious diseases and methods of disease control. They regularly partner with Spartanburg County’s Oakland Elementary School where biology students teach hands-on lessons to kindergarteners about disease transmission and hand washing.

“This project is a wonderful opportunity for our students to serve the community while reinforcing infectious disease content learned in class,” says Webb, associate professor. “Students take ownership of their projects and become invested in making a difference.”

“The pandemic has required a sustained commitment to ensuring that our faculty, staff and students experience the best this university has to offer—in education and as an employer,” said Cole. “I am proud of what we have accomplished together.”



David Church ’92 Leads SCCHE

A lifelong resident of the Upstate and a USC Upstate alum, David Church was recently named chairman of the Spartanburg County Commission for Higher Education (SCCHE). Church is the vice president of Oncology and Support Services for the Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System (SRHS), and was unanimously chosen by his fellow commissioners.

Church has held numerous executive roles with SRHS. Earlier this year, he began leading Spartanburg Regional’s COVID-19 Task Force Steering Team, which continues to direct the system’s response to the pandemic. When SRHS needed space for one of the area’s first drive-through testing sites, Church reached out to USC Upstate.

“Our connection with USC Upstate is long and deep,” said Church. “We

share a commitment to serve the communities of the Upstate, and value the respective roles each plays in contributing to the region’s high quality of life. That relationship may be more important now than ever.”

“David is one of our outstanding alums who has proven himself to be a dedicated leader in the medical field and the community,” said USC Upstate Interim Chancellor Derham Cole. “We are very excited to continue our work with the commission with David at the helm.”

Church earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Marketing from USC Upstate in 1992 and a Doctoral of Healthcare Administration degree from the Medical University of South Carolina.



USC Upstate Is No. 1...Again



For a second consecutive year, USC Upstate is No. 1 among Southern Regional Public Colleges in annual rankings published by U.S. News & World

Report. Additionally, in its list of Best Regional Colleges, USC Upstate is 12th among all Southern Regional Colleges, which includes private institutions as well as public.

"I am proud that USC Upstate continues to build on its reputation as a university that provides a high-quality, affordable, career-relevant education to citizens of the Upstate and beyond," says USC Upstate Interim Chancellor Derham Cole. "These rankings are significant recognition of our collective efforts to fulfill our mission by providing transformative opportunities for students and families, and positively impacting the social, cultural and economic fabric of the communities we serve."

USC Upstate ranks No. 3 among the South's Best Colleges for Veterans, moving up from No. 4 last year. In the social mobility category, USC Upstate is

No. 13 among Southern Regional Colleges, private and public.

U.S. News and World Report rankings are calculated based on 17 measures of academic quality, such as graduation and retention rates, social mobility, faculty resources, alumni giving, admissions data and academic reputation determined by a peer assessment from top collegiate academics. Regionally accredited schools are categorized by criteria developed by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Business, Nursing Uphold Reaccreditation Standards

The George Dean Johnson, Jr. College of Business and Economics (JCBE) recently earned reaccreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International. Founded in 1916, AACSB is recognized worldwide for its standards of excellence.

Every five years, AACSB-accredited schools must undergo a rigorous peer review to demonstrate they have the resources, credentials and commitment needed to provide students with first-rate,



Dean Mo Djerdjouri, George Dean Johnson, Jr. College of Business and Economics

future-focused business education. Accreditation recognizes that an institution has demonstrated a focus on excellence in teaching, research, curricula development, student learning and community engagement. Only about 5% of business schools worldwide hold this distinction. JCBE has been accredited by AACSB International since 2000.

"We are delighted and proud to receive a full extension of accreditation by the leading global accreditor of business schools," says Mo Djerdjouri, dean of JCBE. "It's a great honor, and, for our college, one that highlights the exceptional quality of our faculty, staff, students and program."

This fall, Dean Shirleatha Lee and her team at the Mary Black School of Nursing (MBSON) hosted a virtual site visit for evaluators with the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). Lee joined USC Upstate in July 2019, just in time to take the school through the end of its own rigorous preparation for reaccreditation.

"The Mary Black School of Nursing has long embraced the idea of continuous improvement, always working to provide a high-quality program for our students," says Lee. "Over the last few years, faculty committees collaborated to ensure alignment with Commission standards."

Lee says exit reports by 2020 evaluators indicate that all standards and key elements were met. A recommendation for reaccreditation will go before the CCNE Board of Commissioners during its spring meeting.

"I have been involved with a number of accredited programs across the country,

Nursing track opens to biology majors

It was about a year ago that the Mary Black School of Nursing (MBSON) was sewing up a new opportunity for biology students at the College of Charleston. Recognizing a critical need for nurses in the state, administrators from both institutions developed a program that enables biology students at the College of Charleston to take their first three years of coursework and transition to USC Upstate to finish up. Graduates of the accelerated, five-year program earn degrees in both biology and nursing.

Not long after the dual-degree program was announced, Jeannie Chapman, dean of USC Upstate's College of Science and Technology, met with MBSON Dean Shirleatha Lee to develop a plan for offering the same opportunity to biology students at Upstate.

"A strong science foundation is essential for students who wish to move successfully through the nursing



program," says Lee. "This dual-degree program allows us to support talented students who discover an interest in nursing while minimizing a delay in our ability to move them into the workforce."

In building a curriculum for the dual degree, Chapman, Lee and members of their faculty identified common courses that count as credit for both, decreasing the time required to complete two programs. And while rigorous, the compressed course load saves students the expense a second degree would ordinarily bring.

"We're excited about the new dual-degree program in biology and nursing.

"Good scientists and good health practitioners always ask why." - Ben Montgomery

Learning about systems in living organisms provides an excellent foundation to better understand what can go wrong in a living person and how we can help to address problems when they occur," said Ben Montgomery, associate professor of Biology and chair of Natural Sciences and Engineering. "Good scientists and good health practitioners always ask why. A biology degree provides a nurse with a deeper understanding of why diseases occur and why particular treatments are appropriate.

but none have been stronger than the programs here at USC Upstate," says USC Upstate Provost David Schecter. "These incredible faculty and hardworking staff are a model for schools around the country."

Wild About Upstate

USC Upstate joined the ranks of Disney's Epcot Theme Park and the Denver Zoo when it was recognized this fall by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) as a Certified Wildlife Habitat Site. Bruce Suddeth, the university's director of Building and Landscape Services, applied for the certification and was delighted when he learned Upstate had met all criteria. "We have many types of wildlife on the campus grounds at varying times of the year," says Suddeth. "This is significant recognition that the University is doing its part for wildlife

conservation in an urban environment."

NWF's certification website states that "rapid and large-scale changes to our lands and waters mean wildlife are losing the habitats they once knew. Every habitat garden is a step toward replenishing resources for wildlife such as bees, butterflies, birds, and amphibians — both locally and along migratory corridors."

USC Upstate has long been recognized for its dedication to preserving the beauty of its 330 acres. As a designated Tree Campus USA for more than a decade, the university is recognized by the national Arbor Day Foundation for its promotion of healthy trees and student involvement.

Beth Button, adult education coordinator for the Watershed Ecology Center, holds her rescue opossum, just one example of wildlife that can be spotted on campus.



Dean Shirleatha Lee, Mary Black School of Nursing



‘People First’

USC Upstate prioritizes diversity and inclusion efforts in the community and on campus.

Early in 2020, USC Upstate joined a group of 15 area organizations to form the Spartanburg Racial Equity Collaborative. Among these partner organizations are the City of Spartanburg, the Mary Black Foundation, ReGenesis Healthcare, Spartanburg County, Spartanburg School District 7, and the United Way of the Piedmont, all of which have come together to realize a mission to “eliminate racial inequities in Spartanburg County through racial healing and systems change.”

USC Upstate’s educational mission complements the collaborative’s efforts to advance awareness, education and training around racial equity, foster authentic dialogue, and advocate for equitable policy and system changes. Indeed, these ideals are embedded in the university’s strategic objectives to provide accessible education and enhanced quality of life for citizens of the Upstate.

“With many first-generation and adult students choosing Upstate for their academic goals, economic mobility can be tied directly to educational attainment,” says Stacey Mills, who leads USC Upstate’s role with the collaborative as assistant vice chancellor for Regional Engagement and executive director of the Greenville campus. “A college degree changes the trajectory for multiple generations in families, and USC Upstate provides a gateway to accessible and excellent educational opportunities and improved quality of life.”

“As municipalities strengthen resolves related to race, equity and mobility, our ‘people first’ strategic imperative lives in the work of groups



Stacey Mills, '92, is a well-known advocate for equality, serving on the National Board of the Urban League, as a member of the Greenville Race Equity and Economic Mobility Commission, the Spartanburg Racial Equity Collaborative, and as chair of the Greenville City Council’s Citizens Advisory Panel, which develops recommendations to improve hiring of minority candidates, among other responsibilities.

like the Spartanburg Race Equity Collaborative,” Mills adds. “As a partner in these initiatives, USC Upstate is well positioned to continue to contribute to stronger lives and brighter futures.”

On campus, several new initiatives aim to promote awareness of racial inequity and opportunities for change. Utilizing data in the Spartanburg Racial Equity Index that was published in 2018, academic and student affairs leaders have come together to facilitate dialogue and provide students with new opportunities to contextualize the racial unrest they’re witnessing across the country.

“Imagine, if you are a man or woman of color, or of a minority orientation, a minority disability, or of a minority faith tradition, what 2020 has done to your psyche,” says Robert “Brit” Katz, interim vice chancellor for Students Affairs and Dean of Students. “We’ve morphed from multicultural programming to intercultural education and engagement because the world — and our university — is an intersectional experience of gender, race, sexual orientation, faith tradition, and socio-economic status. Our programs must represent the spectrum.”

Since Katz arrived on campus last spring, he’s created a new group that is dedicated to advancing the status of the Black/African American student experience. He’s supported faculty and students who have similar goals for recognizing challenges and concerns of Latinx students and families and those with disabilities. And he revised the USC Upstate Student Conduct

Code to ensure these efforts and ideals become embedded in the campus culture.

“There is now a clear, non-discriminatory harassment clause in our code that addresses behaviors — an impingement of free speech, for example,” says Katz. “A student cannot threaten, diminish or coerce — in other words, deny — another student an opportunity to learn freely as he or she or they are.”

Nick Gaffney, USC Upstate’s director of African American studies, is among faculty who have developed new programs for students. The “Black Carolina Lecture Series” introduces the community to the work of scholars actively conducting research on African Americans in South Carolina and the southeast.

The Campus-Community Book Club and Study Group allows students and community members to participate in a series of seminar-styled discussions of four to six books over the course of an academic year. All of the title selections share a common theme of “Historicizing Inequality: The Construction of Racial Disparities in American Society.”

“We’ve seen a lot of angst about recent waves of social activism and police brutality,” says Gaffney. “One of the things students come to realize is that these are historical problems that have repeated themselves since the World War II era, so we find ways to crack open the history books and talk about this, to recognize the cycles, look for the silver linings, highlight the optimism, and examine how to move forward.”



USC Upstate student-athletes joined student and campus organizations to lead a social justice march in October. The peaceful protest, called “Be the Bridge,” provided students with an opportunity to engage with the community and spread a message of racial unity.



Interim Vice Chancellor for Students Affairs and Dean of Students Brit Katz, right, works closely with student government leaders and organizations across campus on initiatives and events designed to invite dialogue around issues of equity and inclusion. Student Body President Adib Kapasi, left, assisted in planning Upstate’s first-ever Latinx virtual Town Hall.



Araceli Hernandez-Laroche, associate professor of modern languages and assistant chair of USC Upstate’s languages, literature and composition department, has been a force for cultural diversity, inclusion, and equity, and has modeled service across campus and in the community. She has been involved with numerous organizations, including Alianza Spartanburg, which is dedicated to improving quality of life for the Latinx community, and the Líderes Avanzando Through College Program in partnership with UnidosUS, which supports first-generation Latino students. “Our Latinx faculty are engaged in collaborative, public-facing work, with local community members and civic leaders throughout South Carolina on issues related to authentic outreach, advocacy, inclusion, leadership development, and language accessibility, including translation and interpreting studies,” says Hernandez-Laroche. “Through public scholarship and community-based learning, we connect our students to a powerful network of mentors representing a wide range of industries and nonprofits.”



FLASHBACK

In January 2008, light snow showers visited the Upstate region. While short-lived, the blanket of snow created a scenic landscape around the USC Upstate campus.

Donette Stewart: The Rewards of Recruitment

Vice Chancellor for Admissions and Enrollment Services Donette Stewart has worked at USC Upstate for 30 years. She says she still feels a sense of pride every time she drives onto the campus. She loves what she does, and she loves why it matters.

When I first started working in admissions, it was because I loved the idea of talking to students about going to college and helping them through the process of enrollment,” she says. “Once I understood that I could help students while marketing how education transforms lives, I knew this was the right path for me.”

Stewart says that growing up, she was inspired by her parents and grandparents, who worked to help people and their communities, and she knew she wanted to make a difference. She’s grateful for all of the people she’s met along the way, who she says have made life special and meaningful.

“I have had the opportunity to work for some amazing leaders who shaped USC Upstate into the university it is today. While people probably don’t grow up dreaming about how to be a higher education enrollment specialist, that’s only because they don’t know how rewarding it can be! There are not many things more rewarding than giving students the chance for a better future.”

What do you enjoy most about your work?

There are many things I enjoy about working at Upstate but I think the top three are students, colleagues, and planning.

Our amazing students are the reason I am always happy and excited to come to work. They provide the energy and

life that make Upstate such a special place. It is truly an honor to be part of their growth and development while they are with us. Even after all the years of working on campus, watching the students graduate still gives me great joy.

We have fantastic faculty and staff at Upstate who truly are committed to student success. It’s motivating to work with people who are dedicated to students. Recruitment and enrollment requires everyone on campus to believe

“There are not many things more rewarding than giving students the chance for a better future.”

in what we do and live that every day.

I really enjoy all of the moving parts of enrollment, planning and working to get the puzzle to fit together just right! Implementing a strategy to attract students to Upstate is an important part of enrollment management. It is critical to our success and the success of our students.

What do you find most challenging?

This year, of course, has offered new challenges. Due to COVID-19, we’ve had to host many of our events virtually, and while we are grateful for technology,

we miss the personal interaction with students and parents. We love having students on campus! We miss visiting our local high schools and community college partners to meet face-to-face with prospective students. I believe students need to visit a campus to make a final decision about college attendance, so I am pleased that we are beginning to offer on-campus visits and tours again, providing safe opportunities for students and families to become familiar with our state-of-the-art classrooms and beautiful green spaces.

How has your work evolved over the years?

My work has changed tremendously over the years but it has always been rewarding and meaningful. Our campus size and student body have more than doubled since I began working at Upstate. We have gone from managing a couple of thousand applications for admission to more than 10,000 applications a year, and from a few million dollars in financial aid to over \$60 million.

Technology has tremendously changed the way we communicate. Over the years, we have transformed our office from a paper-based admissions and financial aid system to one that is completely electronic. Student information is available in a matter of minutes, allowing us to make decisions much more quickly. And while we still mail information to students, our



primary means of communication is now electronic. We use email, social media, texts and chat bots to reach out.

What career opportunities do you feel students today should consider?

I have always believed that students should think about what they enjoy most to help them make a final decision about their major and career. It is always easier to go to work when you love what you do. I encourage students to talk to people working in the fields that interest them to learn more about the rewards and any challenges.

Our professional colleges offer outstanding career options in nursing, education and business. These career options are timeless and provide outstanding earning potential and opportunity for career progression. Our science and technology college offers students a chance to prepare for medical school or consider new majors like cybersecurity, which is a rapidly

growing, high-paying field. The two fastest growing majors in our arts and humanities college are criminal justice and psychology. Both of these majors offer incredible job opportunities for students interested in research and/or helping others.

Additionally, Upstate does a fantastic job preparing students for graduate school, in medicine, dentistry and law, for example. Individual attention and opportunities to work closely with our faculty help students prepare impressive files for admissions committees. 📖

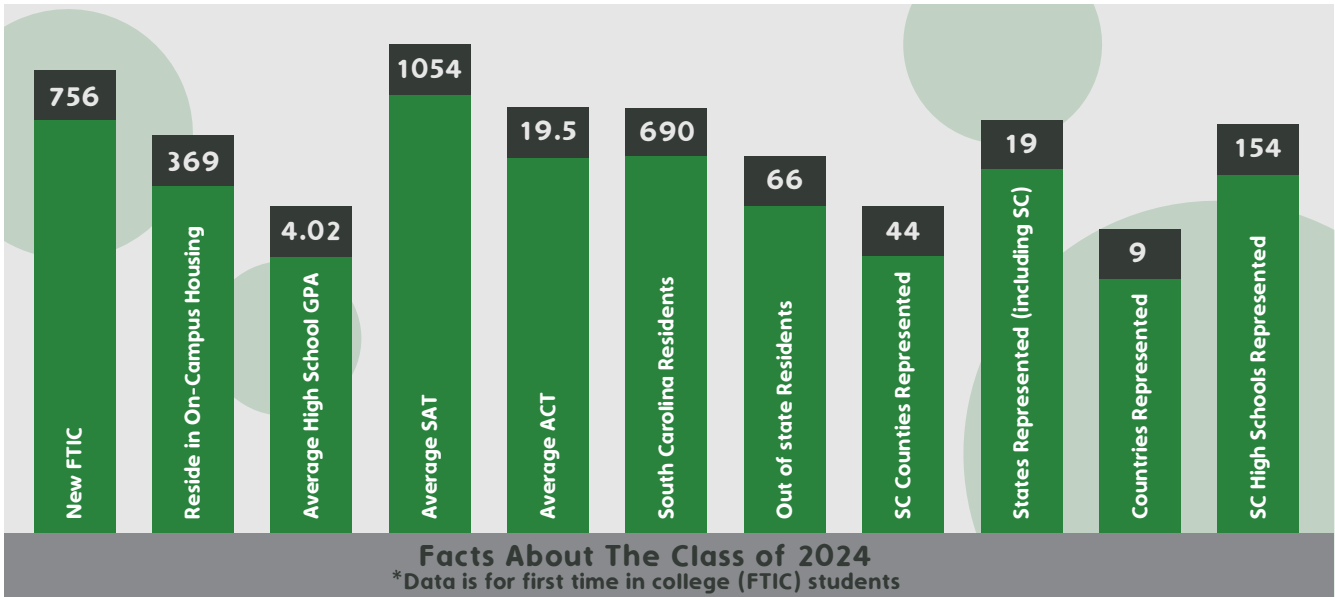
What advantages do you feel USC Upstate offers students?

I believe Upstate offers students many advantages. Among these are opportunities to:

- Build quality, personal relationships with other students, faculty and staff
- Learn from highly respected faculty members who are leaders in their fields
- Enjoy a campus with modern buildings and gorgeous green spaces
- Participate in Division 1 athletics with supportive and mentoring coaches
- Learn in the beautiful Upstate region, one of the fastest growing in the United States
- Be a part of the prestigious University of South Carolina System
- Interact with a diverse campus community, one committed to equity and inclusion
- Participate in hands-on learning with prestigious partners in business, education and healthcare
- Attend a university that is ranked No. 1 by US News and World Report!

Meet the

Class of 2024



Anahi Sanchez

Hometown: Boiling Springs, South Carolina
High School: Boiling Springs High School
Major: Accounting
Hobbies: Hairstyling
What do you hope to achieve during your time at Upstate? I hope to make more long-lasting friendships.
I chose Upstate: Many of my friends go here and they told me about the great things at Upstate.



Malcom Leach

Hometown: Abbeville, South Carolina
High School: Abbeville High School
Major: Graphic design
Hobbies: Art, running
What do you hope to achieve during your time at Upstate? I hope to have fun, grow and learn as much as I can.
I chose Upstate: Because the school has a lot of history and legacy to my family.



Brianna Templeton

Hometown: Orangeburg, South Carolina
High School: Andrew Jackson Academy
Major: Business marketing
Hobbies: Painting and singing
What do you hope to achieve during your time at Upstate? I hope to achieve all of my goals and aspirations and to hopefully double major at some point to further my knowledge.
I chose Upstate: Because of academic scholarships and the community!



Paul Metts

Hometown: Saluda, South Carolina
High School: Homeschooled
Major: Criminal justice
Hobbies: Weightlifting and fishing
What do you hope to achieve during your time at Upstate? I hope to become more independent and focused.
I chose Upstate: Because of the great criminal justice program.



Darbie Lisk

Hometown: Hampstead, North Carolina
High School: Topsail High School
Major: Criminal justice
Hobbies: Drawing and playing softball
What do you hope to achieve during your time at Upstate? I hope to achieve a successful softball career and graduate with a degree that will help me in whatever profession I choose.
I chose Upstate: For the incredible opportunity to play for a successful D1 program but also because of the smaller, community-like campus.



Olivia Marshall

Hometown: Mooresville, North Carolina
High School: Mooresville High School
Major: Biology pre-med
Hobbies: Softball, hiking, learning random things like mushrooms, insects, etc.
What do you hope to achieve during your time at Upstate? Winning the softball team conference championship.
I chose Upstate: To play Division I but was never interested in big schools. When the coaches called about continuing softball and education at Upstate, I couldn't think of a better fit.

Unlocked: A Door to Two Worlds

Coffee roastery and café connect Upstate alum to the community and his country.

BY ELIZABETH ANDERSON

Carlos Andres Camargo, '18, has seen his dreams deferred more than once in his life. College wasn't an option when he arrived in the United States from Colombia at age 19 – it was nearly 20 years later when he earned the degree he had always wanted. When the pandemic shut down his coffee shop just as he was getting ready to officially launch, he worked hard to keep the business going until he could reopen. Sitting in the comfortable, bright space at Poe Mill in Greenville that he and his wife have transformed into a welcoming place to enjoy a cup of coffee, Camargo shares other dreams – supporting coffee farm communities back in Colombia, opening additional shops in the Upstate. Like his earlier plans, these, too, may take time to achieve, but Camargo believes deeply in fostering community. “Making everybody feel welcome, making them feel that everything we prepare is done with care, is a special part of what we do,” he says. “When we serve anything, we want to be sure people are getting our best.” Unlocked Coffee reflects Camargo's love of both his native country and adopted one. Camargo grew up in Cali, a city surrounded by lush mountains and rivers and noted for its salsa clubs. But in the 1980s, the city also became synonymous with drug cartels and violence, and Camargo's family was concerned about their safety. His parents decided the family should immigrate to the United States. So in 1999, Camargo and his older brother moved to Connecticut, where extended family members lived.

Carlos Andres Camargo, '18, owns Unlocked Coffee in Greenville with his wife, Rocio Salazar.



Camargo had only recently graduated from high school and had planned to go to college in Colombia, but that had to wait while the brothers established themselves in their new home so their parents could join them. “It was really hard,” Camargo says. “The first years, I didn't have the language, and it was very difficult to establish a relationship with the people and the culture.” Camargo and his brother found jobs at a local plant that polishes implants used in joint replacements. The work was tough – the brothers worked 12-hour days, six days a week, from 4 a.m. to 4 p.m., Camargo says. He worked at the plant for 10 years, but in 2010, he decided he was ready for a change. He had been to South Carolina a few times to visit a family member, and really loved the state. “I enjoyed the weather, the people, and everything I saw here in South Carolina, especially in Greenville,” he recalls. The move was not without risks. The country was in the midst of a recession, and jobs were scarce. But, Camargo says, he didn't feel any special ties to Connecticut. “I never had a chance to feel connected to the culture at all,” he says. “So it was a chance to be in a different place and have different connections.” After arriving in the Upstate in 2011, he got a job as an insurance agent. It was then he began thinking about college again. “It was always there, my dream of going back to college,” he says. “It's something that will always have a value in your life and on your family long term.”



The business' name refers to Camargo's philosophy of “unlocking” the flavor in each type of bean, rather than assigning a particular type of roast to it.

His first step was to enroll at Greenville Technical College. “To be honest, I didn't know what I would like to study or what degree I would like to get,” he says. “But I knew that I had to start at some point.” Starting off with college prerequisites was helpful, he says, since it allowed him to get up to speed academically without the pressure that enrolling at a four-year university would have brought. Initially, he thought he'd just do a two-year program, but his teachers encouraged him to continue on and get his bachelor's. So he transferred to USC Upstate to major in business, and “absolutely loved it.” “I've never regretted going to USC Upstate,” Camargo says. “Every class I took, I maximized everything they had to offer, knowing that one day I could apply that to a business.” Starting his own business had long been a dream of Camargo's. His initial idea was that he'd work for a company, learn the trade, then look for opportunities to strike out on his own. He also wanted to do something that related back to Colombia. His thoughts naturally led to coffee. “People in Colombia are really passionate about coffee,” he says. “Everything is around coffee. Even our soccer team is called Los Cafeteros – the coffee people.” A coffee-related business also fit well with another goal of Camargo's: connecting with the community. “You can do that in many ways, but I think coffee shops and coffee are a source of great connection with people,” he says. “Coffee shops are the perfect place to have meetings, study, have a

date, the perfect place to do anything.” While still working on his degree at Upstate, Camargo began exploring options to learn more about the coffee business. He discovered Ally Coffee in Greenville, a coffee importer that also offers classes for anyone serious about coffee. Camargo learned about selecting beans, roasting and brewing, while simultaneously working on a business plan. At the conclusion of his coffee classes, he realized he needed to put his knowledge into practice, so he bought 154 pounds of Colombian coffee and rented a roaster at Ally. He gave the finished product to family and friends to get their feedback, which, he says, was positive. “They really enjoyed the coffee a lot, and started asking if we would sell it,” he says. In between college courses and his insurance job, Camargo would take a day to roast coffee, deepening his knowledge of all the variables in the process. As graduation neared, he was offered the opportunity to open a shop at Poe West, a former mill in Greenville. It was a bigger step than he'd anticipated taking, but the economy looked good and he wasn't sure he'd get such a chance again. Because Camargo had focused on economics at Upstate, he knew coffee was a fairly recession-proof business. Far from hurting business, periods of economic downturn are often good for coffee shops, he says. “When you can't go out and afford a big dinner, you can still give yourself a good cup of coffee,” he explains. He felt his new business could likely ride out any rough economic times ahead.



Visit Unlocked Coffee at Poe West, 556 Perry Ave. Suite B116, Greenville, or online at unlockedcoffee.com.

Unlocked Coffee offers a range of coffee drinks and breakfast items.

But as with many small business owners, Camargo had no way of anticipating the impact of a pandemic. He was just getting ready to officially open the café at Poe Mill in March when almost everything in the state shut down.

It was devastating, Camargo says. While he fully supports keeping people safe, he says the state rules disproportionately hurt the food industry, which had to rely solely on curbside or delivery service. Big box stores, many of which initially did not require masks, were deemed “essential” and allowed to remain open.

Even when restaurants got the green light to reopen, at 50 percent capacity, it still wasn’t enough, Camargo says,

particularly for a new business that hadn’t yet built up a loyal client base. “I’m still adjusting, still trying to figure it out every day,” he says. “We have days when we have good traffic, and we feel like, oh, we’re ready, next week is going to be really busy again. Then next week, no one comes.”

Camargo has instead focused on what he can control, which is making his shop as welcoming and comfortable as possible for people looking to get out of the house and relax. His wife, Rocio Salazar, who is also Colombian, has been critical to that effort, using her marketing expertise to create a website, promote the shop on social media, and design the logo. “The personality of the brand comes from her work,” Camargo says.

In September, Unlocked held a staggered-hours grand opening, complete with coffee giveaways and a latte art throwdown. After so many setbacks, it was good to finally have something to celebrate, Camargo says.

What the coming year holds is uncertain, but Camargo dreams of opening more coffee shops eventually, especially in Upstate cities that may not have many options. It’s important, he says, to have places where people can come together – and maybe learn a little bit about Colombia, too.

“We’re that point of connection between our country and people here,” he says. “It’s like a bridge between two countries, and we’re in the middle facilitating.” ☐



Carlos Andres Camargo takes pride in his Colombian roots. Even Unlocked’s cups were designed in Colombia especially for the cafe.



Unlocked Coffee is located in Poe Mill in West Greenville.



All in the Family

USC Upstate ties cross generations in many households.

It's not uncommon for the faculty, staff and students who live, work and study at a university to describe the campus community as a family. In some cases, though, it literally is.

Over the years, USC Upstate has welcomed multiple generations of families to campus: alums whose children attended Upstate, older and younger siblings, even some grandparents and grandchildren. While the university name has changed between some of those generations – from USC Spartanburg to USC Upstate – family members share the same affection for their alma mater.

Shayla and Sharonda Simmons

Shayla Simmons, '18, always thought she'd attend the main University of South Carolina campus in Columbia. Then she toured USC Upstate.

"The staff, the campus, something about it just felt right," she recalls. "I went back home and told my parents I didn't want to go to Columbia anymore."

Simmons had taken some business classes in high school and really enjoyed marketing, so Upstate's business administration program, which offered a concentration in marketing, was a good fit for her. She also appreciated the real-world experiences her professors shared in class, which helped prepare her for her current job with the corporate offices of Krispy Kreme in Charlotte.

For Sharanda Simmons, a junior majoring in communications and public

relations with a minor in women's and gender studies, seeing the campus during her older sister's freshman orientation left a lasting impression.

"I loved how green it was," she recalls. "It was really refreshing compared to the other schools I had visited."

Sharanda Simmons says she initially planned to stay close to the family's home in Charleston and attend Charleston Southern. But she loved the idea of being close to her sister, who was living and working in Greenville after graduation.

Shayla Simmons was thrilled. "Because I had such a great experience at Upstate, I was happy to know that she was going somewhere that was familiar, so if she had any questions she could ask me who to contact, or I could introduce her to faculty and staff I know," she says.

Sharanda Simmons shares her sister's enthusiasm for Upstate. "I just really love the school," she says. "It's so family oriented – everybody is connected, everybody is trying to help each other."

When she struggled with a math class early on, professor Charles McGill went the extra mile to help her, Sharanda Simmons says. And throughout the pandemic, her professors have offered support, she says.

"The majority of the professors I've had want you to pass, they want you to succeed, but the most important thing is, they want you to learn," she says.

Though the sisters grew up in Charleston, they both loved the more intimate Upstate environment.

"Coming to Upstate, being in Spartanburg, and being on a smaller campus and having that community was great," says Shayla Simmons.

Connie Gilbert and Brandon Harrison

Brandon Harrison was drawn to his grandmother's stories about being a nurse, but he was hesitant at first about a nursing career.

"I was interested in it after high school, but I wasn't 100 percent sure that's what I wanted to do," the third-year nursing student says. "The main thing that scared me away from it was I heard about how tough nursing school is, how competitive it is."

Harrison's grandmother Connie Gilbert (then Threadgill) already had experience when she entered nursing school at USC Spartanburg. She had been a practical nurse for 12 years, and was a mom to three children, when she decided to return to school and fulfill a goal. She received her associate degree in 1978.

"My mother always encouraged me, because that was her desire, to be a nurse," Gilbert says.

Harrison joined the Navy when he finished high school, and then worked in real estate. He also got married – his wife, Stephanie, '18, is the daughter of Donette Stewart, vice chancellor for enrollment services. But all the time, he says, the idea of nursing "just sort of grew on me." When he told his grandmother he had decided to pursue nursing, she was elated.

"He's following in my footsteps, and that really makes a grandmother proud," Gilbert says.

"The majority of professors I've had want you to pass, they want you to succeed, but the most important thing is, they want you to learn." - Sharanda Simmons



Shayla, '18, and Sharanda Simmons

Harrison looks forward to caring for others, something he says has always meant a lot to him. "Just being able to help people whenever they're vulnerable and having rough moments would be special," he says.

Gilbert says those were some of her favorite things about being a nurse, too – "communicating with the patients, working with families in difficult situations," she says.

When Harrison talks to Gilbert, he often shares with her the things he's learning in school, which he says she's always excited about. While nursing school has been tough, "As long as the dedication is there, it's definitely possible," he says.

Zanzi and Yusef Robinson

Siblings Zanzi, '18, and Yusef Robinson, '19, have practical streaks

that shaped their choice of major. But their minors reflect creative interests that remain important to them.

Both siblings majored in business administration with a concentration in accounting, but Zanzi Robinson initially was tempted to pursue her first love, English literature. Even after deciding on business, she took 21 credit hours of English classes.

Yusef Robinson, too, toyed with a



Connie Gilbert, AA '78, and Brandon Harrison

different path. A cellist, he seriously considered attending Furman University to pursue music. “It was the opposing forces – the wants and then the needs,” he says. In the end, however, pragmatism won out, and he chose Upstate for its business program.

Still, the siblings continued to explore their other interests. Both are native Spanish speakers, and while at Upstate, Yusef Robinson earned a minor in translation and interpreting. Some of his favorite memories involve the experiences he had putting his skills to use. For spring break one year, he did a study trip to Costa Rica through the business school, acting as a secondary interpreter for the group.

“It was good because I was able to see entrepreneurship firsthand from people who really didn’t have anything and were able to start businesses from the ground up,” he says.

Zanzi Robinson, an avid traveler, did a summer study abroad program in Peru, where she taught English to adults. She also spent two weeks in Germany and Spain as a trip assistant for a business school student trip.



Yusef, '19, and Zanzi Robinson, '18

“I’ve always loved travel,” she says. “It’s the culture, I love food, I really like language.”

While Zanzi Robinson says she “wasn’t much for business” when she started at Upstate, she found she liked the thought process involved with accounting. Her instructor, Michael Wooten, encouraged her to consider a concentration in the subject, which she says proved to be great advice. “It was a puzzle, it was fun,” she says.

Also a revelation was how valuable her English minor was in her career. All the research papers she’d written came in handy when she was looking into account issues. “I have been able to apply those skills, those techniques I learned, into resolving problems,” she says.

Yusef Robinson says he benefited both personally and professionally from his experiences at Upstate. There were the classes, which introduced him to the skills and functions he uses in his job now as accounting manager for the ETV Endowment. Career fairs at the school helped him polish his interviewing techniques and get more comfortable in stressful situations.

But equally important are the interpersonal skills he’s learned from engaging with professors, which he says have helped him become more independent. “Even though I wasn’t technically a professional at that moment, seeing how they interacted, and also them interacting with me as if I were on the same level, helped me navigate workplace dynamics better.”

The Cheshier family

The Cheshiers are not only an Upstate family, they are a family of educators as well.

Meg, '87, and Bob Cheshier, '86, met at USC Upstate back when it was USC Spartanburg. Meg Cheshier was the first in her family to attend college, and chose USC Spartanburg because it was close to home and she could easily commute. Bob Cheshier, on the other hand, moved clear across the country, from Seattle, Washington, so he could play soccer on the university’s inaugural team.

“My dad said I either have to work my way through college or I have to get a scholarship,” Bob Cheshier recalls. “My coach found USC Spartanburg,”

Meg Cheshier already had a good idea of what she wanted to study in college. During high school, she’d assisted teachers in elementary school classrooms, and really enjoyed the experience. “I felt like I’d always been drawn to kids, from volunteering at church and vacation bible school. I liked kids,” she says.

For Bob Cheshier, the discovery was a process. Initially a business major, he found his calling with physical education after he helped lead some youth soccer camps.

Although Bob Cheshier was in mostly upper-level classes by the time his future wife started at the university, the two became friends. Meg Cheshier recalls he was one of the “very big men on campus back then” because of his success on the soccer pitch – for 11 years, he held the campus record for all-time leading scorer, and his record for assists went unbroken for 17 years.

The couple, who married in 1989, have more than 60 years of teaching experience between them. Meg Cheshier worked for many years in Spartanburg District 3, but for the last four years has been the assistant

principal at McCracken Middle School in District 7. Bob Cheshier is a longtime physical education teacher at Monarch Elementary School in Union County.

Both Cheshiers love being educators, despite the challenges. “I still have students that I keep up with,” says Meg Cheshier. “Anybody can come into a class and teach, but to me, it’s a gift to be able to meet these young people and build a whole child. It’s not just educating them, it’s getting to know them and shaping them and encouraging them.”

Bob Cheshier enjoys the energy and enthusiasm of his young students. “They’re a joy, they don’t see any negativity, they’re excited and positive,” he says. “You know you have some kind of meaning in their lives, and you’re helping them in a positive way.”

Nevertheless, the couple says they were not enthusiastic at first when their older son Sam, '18, told them he had switched his major from nursing to education. They worried he didn’t fully understand the kind of sacrifices that would be involved, even after seeing how his own parents had struggled.

But Sam Cheshier was certain he was making the right choice. “I just looked at it from the perspective of overall happiness,” he says. “Were my parents content? Were they happy? And they were.”

The Cheshiers’ younger son, Max, is nearing completion of his degree at USC Upstate, but after taking a few education classes, he decided the family profession wasn’t for him, says Meg Cheshier. And that’s OK, she says, since you have to love education if you’re going to be committed.

Sam Cheshier definitely does. He teaches 10th-grade physical science and chemistry at Chapman High School, where, he says, “I have a hundred victories a day.”

“Whether it’s small, like just getting a kid to understand a simple concept, or I’m getting my whole class to participate, it is very rewarding – not just education-wise, but building relationships with these kids and having a direct impact,” he says.

“Whenever a kid comes back and says, ‘Man, Mr. Cheshier, I loved your class,’ I honestly can’t put into words how great it feels.” 📖

Bob, '86, Meg, '87, and Sam Cheshier, '18





Laura Kretzmer, '19, explores the sandstone walls of Antelope Canyon in Arizona.

Journey Into the Unknown

Travel nurses find adventure while employing their skills in new locations.

BY ELIZABETH ANDERSON

Mary Alexander, '12, BSN '15, lives by a simple philosophy: On the other side of fear is freedom.

It's what motivated her to become a travel nurse and work in parts of the United States where she had never been before, far from her family and friends. "Instead of running away from fear, you walk with fear hand in hand," Alexander says.

It's a feeling shared by other travel nurses, who say each assignment is often a leap into the unknown, requiring no small amount of self-motivation to succeed. Yet travel nursing provides rewards – adventure, good pay, exposure to different work environments – that can enrich a nurse's skills, says April Hansen, executive vice president of Aya Healthcare, a national travel nursing agency.

"As much as we strive for practices and policies that look a lot the same in health care, experiencing health care in different organizations across the country really gives you a more well-rounded view of what's out there," says Hansen.

That was a motivating factor for Alexander when she learned about travel nursing while she was a student. She knew immediately she wanted to try it.

"It lit a fire in me," she says. "I just wanted to experience what it's like to work in different places. They pay you to travel and do the job that you already love doing."

Getting started

A fairly low-key industry when it started in the 1990s, travel nursing has grown as a sector of the overall temporary staffing industry, Hansen

says, and is currently about a \$5.4 billion business. She notes it attracts nurses at all stages of their careers, from those who are young and seeking adventure to those who are semi-retired and seeking the occasional job.

"As a whole in nursing, we do see the largest generation of nurses in the workforce is the millennial generation, and I think we see that in travel nursing as well," Hansen says. "But it's certainly not off limits for any particular demographic."

As with other nursing jobs, travel nursing requires some experience, with at least a year of clinical work expected for many jobs. Alexander, who had opted not to work at a hospital during her nursing program, took a year and a half after graduation to build up her resume with a job in the telemetry and stroke unit at Mary Black Hospital. She then felt ready to apply with a travel nursing agency she found online.

Key for any travel nurse is the recruiter who works with them. At some agencies, nurses can search job listings themselves and ask the recruiter for additional help with the details. Conversely, recruiters also look for jobs based on a nurse's location and salary preferences and help them apply. The more highly desirable the job location, the more experience will likely be required.

Alexander's first travel nursing assignment was in her fifth-ranked location, St. Louis. But Lian Carvajal, BSN '13, who had worked in labor and delivery for two years at Mary Black Hospital and had spent a month in Central America on a medical mission, found work in her first choice city, Seattle, Washington.

"I love hiking, so I chose Seattle because of the hikes and the area,"



Lian Carvajal, '13, has been doing a lot of hiking while a travel nurse in Kauai for the past year. One of the most scenic hikes she tackled was the 11-mile Kalalau Trail along the coast of Kauai.



Mary Alexander, '12, BSN '15, is an avid hiker, and spends many of her weekends out on the trails in central California.

Carvajal says.

Ultimately, having a good recruiter can be key in landing a prime assignment. Laura Kretzmer, BSN '19, who was a travel nurse for a year and a half, says at one point she worked with five different recruiters to find the job she wanted. Alexander, too, advises asking around – in talking to other nurses, she discovered she could be making better pay than she was earning, so she switched to a friend's recruiter.

"It's just knowing your worth and knowing not to get cheated out of something that, if you just knew how to negotiate or knew how the system worked, you could do a little better for yourself," she says.

Plunging in

Nursing assignments typically last 12-13 weeks, though often a contract will be extended if a hospital has ongoing need and likes the work a nurse has been doing. That was the case for Carvajal, who ended up staying in Seattle for almost a year. The job also was a launching pad to other assignments on the West Coast, including Monterey and Stanford in California.

Because of the short duration, however, nurses are expected to hit the ground running when they arrive for an assignment. "You don't get much of an orientation," says Kretzmer. "Usually, you just get a day or two. You have to build confidence in your skills, because you might not always have help."

Alexander says she found it helpful to keep things in perspective. While every new assignment can seem scary or overwhelming, "You're not alone," she says. "You have nurses there you can ask questions of, and you're not the only nurse on the floor. You're not expected to know everything."

Developing a support network eased Carvajal's jitters at her first assignment in Seattle. "During orientation I connected with other travel nurses hired at the hospital and made friends," she says.

At the end of an assignment, travel nurses have flexibility in what they do next. In between St. Louis and her second assignment in Oregon, Alexander returned home for the holidays and worked at Mary Black for

a few months. Kretzmer asked for and received a shorter contract for her first assignment in Charlotte so she could go on a nursing school trip to Africa. And Carvajal has taken periodic breaks to visit Central America, where she sponsors three children.

"The flexibility of travel nursing is awesome," says Kretzmer. "You can take time off in between assignments if you don't want to work for a couple weeks or a couple months."

Expect the unexpected

Travel nursing is not without risks. At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, many hospitals put in large orders for travel nurses, expecting patient caseloads that initially did not materialize. That resulted in several nurses being let go early without another assignment to go to. Kretzmer says while she was lucky enough to complete the contract she had in Arizona, she knew other nurses who weren't so fortunate.

"They pay you to travel and do the job that you already love doing."

Mary Alexander, '12, BSN '15

"Patients just weren't coming in," she says. "That was an odd time, which made it hard for jobs."

Hansen says hospitals have since gotten much better at gauging need, and agencies know the kinds of questions to ask now when a large order comes in. "We spend a lot of time investigating with them," says Hansen.

The pandemic itself has also created obvious dangers for front-line health care workers. Alexander had a close call during a shift at Stanford Medical Center in California when a patient tested positive a few days after being admitted. Alexander was one of the nurses who had close contact with the patient during that period. While some of the nurses became infected, Alexander did not, but she admits the experience was scary.



Mary Alexander, '12, BSN '15, loves getting out in nature when she takes on a new assignment.

Ordinarily, however, the biggest challenge a travel nurse may face is personal. Because jobs are short term, many nurses are constantly looking for their next assignment. While most look forward to planning a new adventure, not everyone is comfortable with uncertainty, Hansen says.

"There's this personal assessment that has to go into it," she says. "Do you really know what you signed up to do, and are you happy with that choice? More cases than not, the answer is absolutely yes."

Ticket to paradise

For Alexander, the experience has been life-changing in more ways than one. Her temporary job in the telemetry and stroke unit at Stanford Medical Center has now become a permanent one, something that still amazes her.

"It's a dream come true," she says. "I remember thinking, this is not real life, this is not happening. Stanford is just the crème de la crème in my mind. That is the hospital to work for."

While she anticipates traveling again someday – Arizona is high on her bucket list – she's enjoying hiking and exploring in California.

Carvajal, too, is realizing some dreams. She is currently wrapping up a year-long assignment in Hawaii, where she stayed on when the pandemic upended her plans to do a medical mission in Samoa this past summer. She's enjoyed many breathtaking hikes, and has returned to school to become a family nurse practitioner. But




Laura Kretzmer, '19, right, and a friend explore the desert landscape around Mesa, Arizona.

one of her favorite memories is from a previous assignment in Nevada.

"My patient was having her first child and she'd been pushing for 30 hours," Carvajal recalls. "She had to have a C-section, but being there for her, to encourage her, was amazing."

Now, Carvajal says, the mother regularly texts her to share photos and updates about her baby.

While Kretzmer says her travel days are done now, and she's settling back into her job with Prisma Health, Carvajal is looking ahead to her next adventure – perhaps Nepal, when she finishes her family nurse practitioner program. Like Alexander, she isn't afraid to face the unknown.

"I would tell people, just go for it, and don't be scared for change," she says. 

Wanted: A Few Good STEM Teachers

BY TREVOR ANDERSON

The University of South Carolina Upstate, in partnership with Spartanburg Community College (SCC) and Spartanburg County schools, hopes to address the region’s need for qualified science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) educators.

In June, the university announced the project “Bridging Pathways for the Preparation of Highly Qualified Mathematics and Science Teachers.” The project, funded by a five-year \$1.2

million National Science Foundation (NSF) Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program grant, will provide scholarships and other opportunities for at least 21 students pursuing a dual

Stephen Bismarck, associate professor of middle level/secondary mathematics



undergraduate degree in STEM and secondary education.

Stephen Bismarck, associate professor of middle level/secondary mathematics education at USC Upstate and the project’s lead investigator, said the initiative is especially timely given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its negative impact on the education system statewide. It also presents individuals working in STEM fields hit hard by the economic fallout of the pandemic with an opportunity to pursue teaching as a second career, he said.

“What we typically see during a recession or significant downturn in the economy is an inrush of folks who want to be teachers,” Bismarck says.

“This is a tremendous opportunity for folks who may already have a degree in a STEM field,” he adds. “Some folks have always wanted to teach. Maybe others are working from home while helping their kids with schoolwork and are thinking, ‘Hey, I can do this!’ Whatever the reason, there is a great need for this and we have created a pathway.”

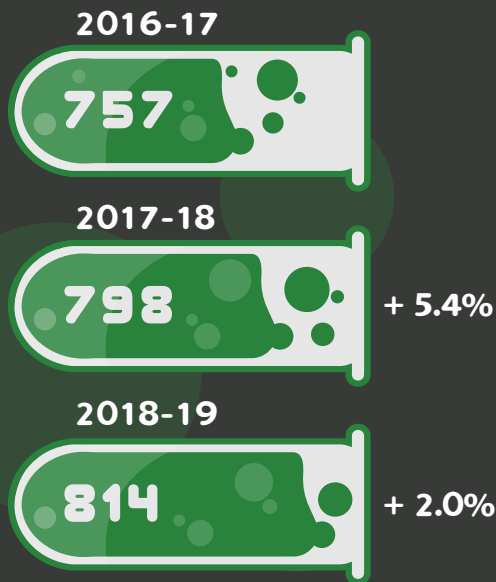
Participants in the project will each receive an \$11,688 scholarship each year for up to three years. Additionally, there will be paid internship experiences available for students at USC Upstate and SCC to work with middle and high school students.

“One of the biggest worries for people considering returning to school is how they’re going to pay for it,” Bismarck says. “Maybe you’re a veteran and your GI Bill benefits are running out. A couple of extra years of tuition might make all the difference in the world ... There is the potential here for you to receive nearly \$35,000 in scholarship funding.”

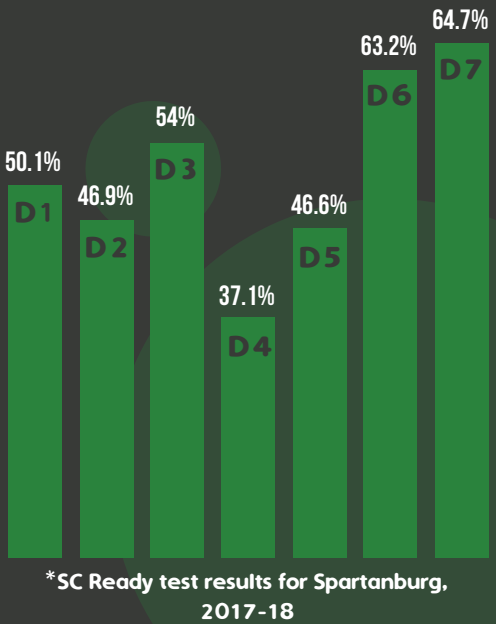
Bismarck says the project will have two cohorts. There are six slots remaining for the first cohort in July 2021. Eleven students will be selected for July 2022. Current students are eligible, but Bismarck says nontraditional students are also welcome.

Grant funds not used for scholarships will be applied to

USC Upstate new STEM majors (math, biology, chemistry)



Percent of students in grades 3-8 not on grade level in math.



internship stipends and conference travel expenses for the scholars, and compensation for project team members, he says.

The program will host a STEM camp for area high school students during the summer of 2021 at SCC, Bismarck says.

“We believe these experiences will act as a catalyst for additional STEM majors to seriously consider the teaching profession,” he says. “This opportunity will allow these highly qualified teachers to enter the profession with little to no debt.”

Once Noyce scholars graduate and are hired by a school, USC Upstate will require them to attend monthly pedagogical seminars during the school year and summer for the first two years of their teaching careers. The seminars will focus on addressing the socio-emotional needs and challenges facing high-need schools.

Co-principal investigators on the project are USC Upstate faculty members Chris Bender (pictured above), associate professor of chemistry; Kimberly Shorter, assistant professor of biology; Ryan Harper, mathematics instructor and director of tutoring; and Nancy Addison, adjunct instructor.

SCC faculty members participating in the project are Sarah Kitts, Brandon Kinley, and Linda Schmidt.

Dorman High School and High Point Academy will be part of the project, but activities for the grant will be open to all Spartanburg County school districts, Bismarck says.

“As a former high school teacher for five years, I am always excited to see opportunities where our terrific local schools and USC Upstate can work together on a project,” says USC Upstate Provost David Schecter.

Taking it a step further

In December, USC Upstate awarded master’s degrees to 81 local teachers, the largest-ever number of graduate degrees awarded by the university in a single semester.

These graduates were part of USC



Upstate’s M.Ed. in applied learning and instruction program, begun in 2019.

The program began with a partnership between the university’s School of Education, Human Performance, and Health (SoEHPH) and Spartanburg Districts 3, 5 and 6 to address the looming teacher shortage, improve teacher retention and provide meaningful professional development to area teachers.

Cohorts of teachers are selected by their districts to participate in the program — their tuition is supported by their district throughout their graduate studies at USC Upstate. The program enables teachers from each district to move through their studies as a group and complete their degree within two years while continuing to work full-time in the classroom.

“We knew South Carolina had a future teacher shortage prior to the pandemic,” says Dr. Laura Reynolds, dean of SoEHPH. “We simply don’t have enough teachers in the pipeline to meet the demand we will see for teachers in our state during the next five years.”

“Programs like the M.Ed. offer a mechanism to help teachers stay in the classroom and attract the best teachers to our region,” Reynolds adds.

Since the M.Ed. program’s inception, Spartanburg School Districts 1,2 and 7, as well as school districts in Cherokee and Laurens Counties, have established graduate cohorts.

That means there is potential for Noyce scholars who go to work in one of those partner districts after they’ve earned their bachelor’s teaching degree, to also obtain their master’s degree and accumulate little to no debt.

“It’s very exciting for us to be in this position,” Bismarck says. “We have an opportunity to not only advance the university’s mission, but to positively impact our community at a critical time of need.”

Faculty Achievements

Warren Bareiss (communication) and a team of faculty received a \$4,150 grant from the Spartanburg Regional Foundation to promote organ donation among college students. The team plans to hold an event at Upstate to share information and answer questions about organ donation and encourage students to register. Joining Bareiss on the team are **Andrew Beer** (psychology), **James Bunde** (psychology), **Michelle Garland** (communication), **Katharine Gibb** (nursing), **Trevor Rubenzer** (political science) and Shonna Bible (Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System).

Sarah Branan (nursing) earned a doctorate in nursing practice from Samford University.

June Carter (Spanish) was the recipient of the 2020 Southern Conference on Language Teaching (SCOLT) Founders Award. The award recognizes a member who has made significant contributions to SCOLT over the years and who exemplifies the spirit and ideals of the founders of the organization.

Chung-Yean Chiang (business) received a \$22,108 grant from the Intermodal Association of North America.

Daniel Davis (business) was awarded a Scholarly Start-Up Grant for his research project “Divining the Future: Designing Ensemble Models for Interorganizational Collaborations.”

Mike Dinger (business) received a 2020 USC RISE (Research Initiatives for Summer Engagement) Award for his research “IT Role Embeddedness and the Professionalism of IT Workers. Together with **Julie Wade** (business), he

co-authored the article “Social Media and Selection: Political Issue Similarity, Liking, and the Moderating Effect of Social Media Platform” in MIS Quarterly. Wade and Dinger also co-authored “A Great Escape: The Effect of Negative Public Affiliation on Belongingness in Virtual Communities,” which will appear in Communications of the AIS.

Allison Ellis (political science) is the author of the forthcoming book Impact of Political Socialization on Support for Democratic Principles: Emerging Research and Opportunities with IGI Global. The book will be available on Oct. 30, 2020.

Ron Fulbright (informatics) has been serving since 2019 on the international committee drafting the ISO 56000 standards for Innovation Management. As a U.S. delegate to the multinational team, Fulbright has been the primary author on much of the Idea Management portion of the ISO (International Standards Organization) 56000. When completed, the standard will be used by companies, governments, and organizations around the world to guide their innovation efforts and ensure those efforts follow well-established practices.

Carmen Harris (history) is a consulting humanities scholar on the NEH implementation grant “Call My Name: The Black Experience in the South Carolina Upstate from Enslavement to Desegregation.” The \$400,000 grant funds a touring exhibition that traces African-American history in the Clemson, South Carolina, area. Harris also gave two professional development talks on race in the United States to the

Qualitative Research Consultants Association.

Elise Harvey (business) published the paper “Firm Receptivity Regarding Marketplace versus Political” in American Journal of Business. She also presented “It Takes an (Online) Village: Adoptive Parent Identity Construction through Blogging” at the Association of Marketing Theory and Practice Annual Conference. A Start:ME entrepreneurship workshop she led with **Hubbard Smalls** (business) was featured on WSPA.

Araceli Hernández-Laroche (modern languages) was selected for the 2020 cohort of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities Emerging Leaders Program. Hernández-Laroche was also honored as Inclusion Advocate of the Year by OneSpartanburg for her work to create equity and fair representation in Spartanburg.

Sharda Jackson-Smith (education) contributed a piece on K-12 education in South Carolina to the summer edition of the League of Women Voters publication “SC Voter.” She is also the author of several upcoming articles that will be appearing in the Journal of Education Finance for the states of South Carolina, Connecticut, Louisiana, Maine and New Hampshire.

Felicia Jenkins (nursing) was selected for the 2020-21 University of South Carolina Academic Leadership Program.

Monique Jones (nursing) earned a doctorate in nursing practice from Gardner-Webb University.

Toshua Kennedy (nursing) received the Jefferson Award from the Multiplying Good organization for her work with the Students in Action team at Greenville Early College.

Shirleatha Lee (nursing) published “Original Interprofessional Simulation to Train Students in CSD and Related Health Professions in Team-Based Healthcare” in Communications Disorders Quarterly. She is also a co-author of “Study Protocol of a Randomized Intervention Study to Explore Effects of a Pure Physical Training and Mind-Body Exercise on Cognitive Executive Function in Independent Living Adults 65-85,” which will appear in the Journal of Aging Clinical and Experimental Research. She is a

member of the national Tackling Transfer Policy Advisory Board, which published an op-ed in Diverse Issues in Higher Education on the “corona swirl” of transfer students.

Robert McCormick (history), with **Aracelli Hernández-Laroche** (modern languages) and **Catherine Canino** (English), edited the book An International Rediscovery of World War I: Distant Fronts as part of the Routledge Studies in First World War history.

Nicole Richardson (history) contributed a chapter to the volume entitled “The Treaty of Versailles and the Rise of Chinese Feminism.”

Benjamin McCraw (philosophy) published a chapter entitled “Proper Epistemic Trust as a Responsibilist Virtue” in the book Trust in Epistemology (Routledge). He also published the article “Thinking With Others: A Radically Externalist Internalism” in the journal Acta Analytica. His widely cited edited volume Philosophical Approaches to Demonology also became available in

paperback this year.

Anita Nag (biochemistry) was awarded a Development Research Program grant. The program, offered through South Carolina IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (SC INBRE), supports independent faculty research that in turn provides research training to students in the biomedical sciences.

Jim O'Connor (business) and **Frank Rudisill** (business) co-authored “Critical Values for Pareto Comparisons,” which was published in Quality Progress.

Roz Paige (business) was interviewed by S.C. Public Radio about the impact of the coronavirus on South Carolina retailers for the story “Coronavirus Takes Heavy Toll on Retail Industry.”

Matthew Placek (political science) published an article entitled “Learning Democracy Digitally?: The Internet and Knowledge of Democracy in Non-Democracies” in the journal Democratization, a top-15 journal in political science. He also published a

Washington Post Monkey Cage article entitled “Poland’s digital divide may have helped secure President Duda’s re-election.”

Susan Richardson (Health Informatics) received the South Carolina Health Information Management Association Distinguished Service Award in July 2020.

Nick Rouse (Health Informatics) received a Cancer Registry Certification.

Sirajul Shibly (business) authored the paper “Surprise Rewards and Brand Evaluations: The Role of Intrinsic Motivation and Reward Format,” which was published in the Journal of Business Research. He also presented his research “Digital Marketing Strategy Backlash: Negative Effect of Banner Advertisement on In-app Coupon” at the American Marketing Association’s 2020 Winter Academic Conference.

Julie Wade (business) received a 2020 USC RISE (Research Initiatives for Summer Engagement) Award for her research “State Affect and IT Usage.”

From left, professors Seunggeun "Steve" Hyun (mathematics and engineering systems), Stefanie Keen (psychology), Allison Ellis (political science), and Esther Godfrey (English) during a fall ceremony honoring faculty promotions. The four professors were promoted to full, while eight others were promoted to associate.



Off the Shelf

Communicating With, About, and Through Self-Harm: Scarred Discourse
Lexington Books
Warren Bareiss
(communication), editor

This book seeks to empower individuals who self-injure as well as their families, friends, health care providers, and communities to better understand and deal with non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI) and the pressures that cause it. NSSI is the deliberate harming of one's body without suicidal intent. Communication and NSSI intersect in many ways, including conversation among family members, consultation with health care providers, representation in the media, discourse among people who self-injure, and even communication with oneself. Each chapter in this book addresses a different context of communication crucial to understanding NSSI.

Joint Ventures: A Life Enriched by the Good Will of Others
Lystra Books
Olin Sansbury
(former chancellor, USC Spartanburg)

This memoir draws on Sansbury's varied life experiences to highlight the value of collaborative efforts in accomplishing goals. He examines the uncomfortable events that challenged him and addresses setbacks he experienced. A continuing student of history and politics, Sansbury laments recent developments that have polarized Americans and threaten the nation's future. He shares his concern that well-financed corporate lobbyists are crippling access to quality education and health care. His overarching message to readers is that humans are interconnected in their ventures in far-reaching and surprising ways.

Democratization of Expertise: How Cognitive Systems will Revolutionize Your Life
CRC Press
Ron Fulbright
(informatics)

This book examines the societal and cultural revolutions throughout history that have been brought about by the adoption of new technology and give a brief history of human cognitive augmentation and artificial intelligence. As the capabilities of cognitive systems improve over the time, the balance of thinking will shift from being mostly human to mostly artificial. The book introduces the Levels of Cognitive Augmentation to describe this shift. Readers who are interested in cognitive systems, cognitive computing, cognitive augmentation, or artificial intelligence, or doing research in these fields, will find this book particularly useful. [UP](#)



Gerald Hubbard Smalls, associate professor of accounting, says the new majors will make it easier for students to get hired.

the project forward, adding that it could be the dean's "single most important contribution to the university."

"This sets our business college apart," she says. "It makes us more competitive with other universities across the state and makes us more attractive to students who are serious about pursuing exciting, dynamic careers in business ... And to be able to provide these majors in a region that is experiencing significant economic and population growth is truly exciting."

Gerald Hubbard Smalls, associate professor of accounting at the JCBE, said he is confident the new majors will help the college recruit more students. He is particularly enthusiastic about what it means for the college's ability to innovate and set students on a path to successful, rewarding careers.

"I think this helps us on the front end with recruitment, but it especially helps us on the back end, when we're working with recruiters to get our students hired," Smalls says. "From a teaching standpoint, we'll be able to offer more. The companies we work with really like our students. This will ease the vetting process because they already know they're getting an employee who is qualified to step into the job they're needed for."

According to Djerdjouri, JCBE faculty members are already working to deepen the academic experience for students. That work includes the development of new concentrations within each major.

He says students could also strategically select their courses to earn dual degrees, making them even more attractive to potential employers.

"There are so many opportunities for students to focus on one or more areas they're interested in or have an aptitude for," says Brian Brady, a JCBE instructor and director of the college's new Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CEI).


The new majors will have a direct impact on CEI, Brady says, as the center will encourage students to pursue not only the entrepreneurship and innovation major and minor, but also other programs available through JCBE aimed at creating

successful entrepreneurs and business leaders for the private, public and nonprofit sectors.

"I think this really helps to make students more marketable in their job search," he says. "For instance, I might have a student majoring in marketing and they could have a concentration in social media, which is growing exponentially. It really makes us responsive to the needs of our students and the demands of the job market. It also strengthens our connection to the community and raises the profiles of both the Upstate and the JCBE."

Among the benefits of the new degrees:

- Students will be better able to market themselves in specific career paths.
- Student diplomas will show their major where their concentration did not appear previously.
- JCBE will develop specializations within majors. For example, the logistics and supply chain management major could have a distribution track and a procurement track, or the marketing major could have a social media marketing concentration.
- Students will be able to earn dual majors within the business college.
- Business students will be able to earn minors within the business college.
- JCBE can refine and improve the focus of each major's curriculum, improving its relevance and rigor to match students' career interests.

"The ability to earn a double major in the business world is amazing for students and employers, and very unique for our region and state," Stewart says. "Another thing I love about JCBE is that it has done a tremendous job throughout the years of hiring professors and instructors who have had successful careers in the 'real world.' You're learning from someone who has done it. It really breathes life into what you're learning in the textbook." 

Tashana Cato and A'Myah Ross, students in the Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization, meet with Brian Brady, director of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

New Center to Help Students Build a Business

USC Upstate's George Dean Johnson, Jr. College of Business and Economics (JCBE) has launched a new entrepreneurial platform that seeks to leverage the university's resources, expertise, talent and relationships to spur innovation and economic growth across the Upstate region.

The Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CEI), housed at the JCBE, will provide aspiring student entrepreneurs across all academic disciplines with opportunities, tools and resources needed to conceptualize and launch their small businesses.

Building on the success of the GreenHouse Business Incubator, which helped launch many startups during its existence from 2014-2020, CEI will serve as an innovation hub for the region's entrepreneurial ecosystem by fostering collaboration and providing access to education, faculty, research, expertise and community engagement.


"We are delighted and excited about launching the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at USC Upstate," said Dr. Mohamed Djerdjouri, dean of the JCBE. "I am confident this will enhance our academic mission in entrepreneurship."

As part of its mission, the center encourages students to participate in the new entrepreneurship and innovation major or minor, and other programs available through JCBE. The goal is to create successful, dynamic entrepreneurs and business leaders for the private, public and nonprofit sectors.

"CEI is an academically focused initiative established to support our plans to build on the success of our entrepreneurship and innovation major, launched this past year," Djerdjouri said. "It will provide additional resources and opportunities for students who are interested in studying and exploring the role of entrepreneurship as a catalyst for economic development, creation of employment opportunities and community advancement."

Additionally, JCBE has launched its chapter of the Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization (CEO). Founded in 1983, CEO supports more than 16,500 emerging collegiate entrepreneurs across the world with resources that include workshops, webinars, pitch competitions, regional conferences and networking opportunities.

JCBE is one of only two active CEO chapters in South Carolina. It is free and open to all USC Upstate students.

"A key goal is to encourage and support student entrepreneurship across all academic disciplines at USC Upstate," said Brian Brady, the center's director. "Building on our six years of success with the GreenHouse Business Incubator, CEI will serve to foster innovation and engage with students, faculty, alumni and the Upstate entrepreneurial ecosystem through networking, programming and research." 



Major Development

Former business concentrations officially become degrees.

The pathway leading students from USC Upstate to fulfilling careers in business recently got a lot wider.

At the start of the fall 2020 semester, the university's George Dean Johnson, Jr. College of Business and Economics (JCBE) introduced six new majors: accounting; economics/finance; entrepreneurship and innovation; logistics and supply chain management; management; and marketing. These majors previously were offered only as concentrations.

It's a change that has been brewing for the past few years as USC Upstate and JCBE leaders have sought to respond to requests to not only expand the 20-year-old business school's offerings, but to determine the next stage in its growth and development.

"We previously offered one degree—a Bachelor of Science in business administration," says Mohamed Djerdjouri, dean of JCBE. "Within that degree we had six concentrations. These concentrations didn't appear on your diploma. If employers wanted to know more about you, they'd have to dig into

your transcript. That's not ideal for job candidates or companies."

"I really commend the students who reached out to us," Djerdjouri adds. "I remember one student in particular who sent me a letter. He said, 'Essentially, I'm an accounting major and no one knows it.' This change has many positives. The impact is going to be huge. It's going to allow us to do so much more."

Djerdjouri said the approval process for the separate majors took about a year. December 2020 graduates are the first to earn the new degrees. The expansion had no impact on tuition costs, led to no JCBE faculty or administration changes and did not alter curricular requirements, officials say.

"We are thrilled about this," says Donette Stewart, USC Upstate's vice chancellor for Enrollment Services. "It gives students an opportunity to have a major in a specialty that best suits their career aspirations and makes them even more attractive to businesses that are looking for employees with specialized skills and abilities."

Stewart praises Djerdjouri for moving



Arriyanna Whitaker
Photo credit: @maddiebaldinelliphotog



Paigan Bentley and Taylor Hall



Devlyn Kane Philson
Photo credit: @rogeliovf



Armand Sowell



Madison Riddlehoover



Courtney Cranmer



Ava Cappuccio



Emily White



Marcus Broome



Bryanna Richardson



Caleb Scruggs



Walk at Upstate



Nijil Staley



Aidan Dingler



Larissa Sands
Photo credit: @maddiebaldinelliphotog



Logan Pace



Teresa Contreras



Darrian Lilly



Miracle Burges and Kylee Vaughn



Myles McDaniel



Erika Quinn



Abby Billiu



ZTA Sorority Fall 2020 Bid Day



Tyone Archie

Small Wonder

Nature is full of surprises for those who pay attention.

A bike riding lesson on a local trail one fall day took biology professor Jonathan Storm down an unexpected path. Storm had taken his then-3-year-old daughter to the Drayton Mills trail to get the hang of balancing on two wheels. Their leisurely progress – Storm’s daughter stopped frequently to stretch or catch Fowler’s toads – gave Storm plenty of time to observe the trees around the trail. That’s when something interesting caught his eye. “I’m looking at tree branches along the trail, and I happened to notice these white markings on the thin tree branches that kind of look like toothpaste,” he recalls. Intrigued, he correctly surmised it was the egg mass of an insect, which he spotted sitting a little farther down the twig next to another egg mass, so small and still it would be easy to miss. Storm recognized the insect, since he’d seen one a year or two earlier and had looked it up then – a two-marked tree hopper, so called because of two distinct yellow marks on its back. But he also knew they were very specific to host trees, and the tree he was looking at, a Carolina silverbell, was not one he’d seen associated with the species. “So I thought, oh, that’s interesting, I’ll look it up to see if this is a host they’re documented to be on,” he says. After doing a little research, Storm could find no records in the scientific literature about the two-marked tree hopper laying eggs on silverbells, so he contacted an expert in the species at



The new two-marked treehopper species discovered by biology professor Jonathan Storm makes its home on a Carolina silverbell tree.

the University of Missouri to see if he knew of some record. “And he said no, you’ve found a new species,” Storm says. “I was pleasantly surprised,” he says. “It checked off one of my life goals, which has always been that I wanted to discover some new species during my life. And to do it randomly, while teaching my daughter to ride her bike, is kind of nice.” With millions of insects in the world, new discoveries aren’t uncommon.

Storm says every 10 years or so, someone finds a new species of tree hopper. And in the tropics of South America or Africa, uncovering a new species isn’t all that surprising. “But to do it in South Carolina, in a park in Spartanburg, is not as easy to do,” he says. It underscores a lesson Storm frequently shares with his students. “You never know what you’re going to discover if you just pay attention to the natural world.”



The tiny treehopper and its egg mass are easy to miss.

Deep Appreciation

Poole gift reflects a love of family, community and swimming.

Competitive and recreational swimmers alike will be able to enjoy a top-notch swim facility for years to come thanks to a gift from two community leaders. John and Lynne Poole of Spartanburg gave \$250,000 to the USC Upstate Foundation that will help cover pool maintenance and repairs. The facility also will be renamed the Lee and Brad Poole Aquatics Center, in honor of the Poole’s two sons. “We could not be more excited and grateful for the Poole family,” said Benita Hopkins, the university’s associate vice chancellor for Development and Alumni Affairs. “Their investment in USC Upstate will ensure our students and community have an excellent facility for maintaining their health and fitness.” Swimming has been a significant part of the Poole family’s lifestyle for many years. It goes back to John’s collegiate career at the University of South Carolina, where he was a swimming letterman attending on a full scholarship. After the couple left the University of South Carolina, they carried on the tradition with their sons. Brad Poole swam on club teams throughout his childhood and later earned a scholarship and a captain’s rank at Davidson College. No one cheered louder for him than his mom, who had been a varsity cheerleader for the Gamecocks. Brad coached high school swim teams after college and then became regional sales director for a major cardiac device manufacturer. These days, he and his wife, Jenna, reside in Charlotte, North Carolina, teaching their daughter the same valuable lessons learned from her grandfather and a shared passion for swimming. Lee Poole, 18 months older than his

brother, died in 2009 at age 27. Shortly after he was born prematurely, he suffered a brain hemorrhage that left him with permanent disabilities. But his family ensured he lived a full and happy life. Lee loved attending McCarthy-Teszler School and seeing his friends, his mother recalls, and particularly enjoyed the school prom each year. He graduated from the program at 21, and stayed active at the Charles Lea Center for adults with special needs. The brothers were close, and Lynne says her older son’s face would light up when he heard his little brother’s voice. She says Lee also loved when his father would race him through the house in his wheelchair. That love of family, coupled with a strong commitment to giving back to the community, is reflected in the Pooles’ latest gift to USC Upstate. After many years of supporting USC Upstate students through their endowed scholarship, the Pooles wanted to dive deeper to show their appreciation. “This is our chance to honor our two children, Lee and Brad, who are so special to us and have been an inspiration to us and many others in such different, yet meaningful ways,” the Pooles said in a statement. “It’s an opportunity to further the mission of USC Upstate, to primarily educate young people who are not only from the Upstate of South Carolina, our home for over 35 years, but who will most likely continue to reside in the Upstate upon graduation and help our local economy grow and prosper for years to come.” The Pooles are longtime members of the Upstate community with a long record of service on many boards and organizations, including John’s more than 20 years on the USC Upstate Foundation board.

The Poole family -- Brad, Jenna, Dawson, Lynne and John -- at the dedication of the Lee and Brad Poole Aquatics Center at the Spartan Rec Center.





Dear Spartan Community,

2020 has been quite a year, and I think we are all grateful that the promise of a new year is finally here. Recently I was listening to the top songs from November 1985 on Sirius Radio. No. 11 on the countdown was Aretha Franklin’s “Who’s Zoomin’ Who?” Though the title is a reference to people scoping each other out at a disco, the song took on a whole new meaning this year as we all learned to navigate virtual meetings and events. Even my 97 year-old aunt was on Zoom to watch her granddaughter get inducted into the National Honor Society.

As I settle into my position here at USC Upstate, I am realizing how important relationships are. In my former role as city executive for a Spartanburg banking institution, I developed and nurtured corporate and nonprofit relationships. I feel honored to use my expertise in relationship management to help advance USC Upstate’s mission, and build upon our partnerships with regional education, corporate, nonprofit and service organizations.

To that end, I am pleased to

USC UPSTATE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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welcome a few new members to our foundation boards. We are thrilled that Louise Connell and Vanessa Merhib have joined the board of directors of the USC Upstate Foundation. We are equally delighted to have Cindy Kelly as a new member of the Capital Development Foundation board. We look forward to their service as they share their time and talents with USC Upstate.

I’ve been deeply impressed by the affection and support that our students, staff, faculty and alums have shown for USC Upstate. Despite the financial challenges and uncertainties so many are facing from the pandemic, we raised \$11,605 on Giving Tuesday in November, more than double last year’s amount. These funds are critical for our students at any time, but especially so now, when many are struggling with financial hardship caused by COVID-19. We are so grateful for the support shown by our USC Upstate family that enables our students to continue pursuing their higher education dreams.

As I watched our Class of 2020 December graduates celebrate their

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

John Bauknight
Tim Camp
Will Gramling
Allen Johnston
Cindy Kelly
Jason Lynch
John Montgomery
George Moseley
Ralph Settle

achievements with a car parade through campus last month, I was struck by the diversity of our student body. Our students are not only racially diverse, but reflect a wide range of life experiences as well – from first-generation freshmen to graduate students and adult learners. We at USC Upstate are honored we can provide all of these students with a rigorous education, wherever they are in their life’s journey, and prepare them for fulfilling careers.

Thank you for being part of our mission and a valued member of the USC Upstate community.

Interim Vice Chancellor
for University Advancement
Executive Director
for University Foundations

Welcome New Board Members



Louise Connell, '92, is supplier diversity manager for BMW Manufacturing Co. in Greer. Since starting

with the company in 1996, she has primarily been with the purchasing department, where she is responsible for the procurement of body shop equipment. In 2011, she added responsibility for the plant’s supplier diversity platform, and helped launch the company’s successful Tier 1 Supplier Diversity Matchmaker Conference. Her professional affiliations include president of the Foothills Regional Advisory Committee and board member of the Carolinas Minority Supplier Development Council.

Cindy Kelly is market president for Spartanburg at TNB Financial Services.



She is an honor graduate of the Cannon Financial Institute Trust School and a certified trust and financial advisor. Kelly is active in the community, and her roles include past president of the Spartanburg and Greenville Estate Planning Councils; co-chair of the Executive Guild and former board chair for the Hope Center for Children; and president elect of the Spartanburg Downtown Rotary Club.



Vanessa Merhib is national vice president of development and operations for Boys & Girls Club of America

(BGCA), where she manages the resource development operations, foundations, events, national trustee boards and philanthropy teams. She oversees the team goal of doubling the movement-wide revenue by 2025 to support the programs, outreach and impact of BGCA, as well as doubling the number of youths served by the organization. Merhib previously served as CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Plains from 2006 – 2019.



Photo, from left-right: Brit Katz, interim vice chancellor for Student Affairs and Dean of Students; Kim Jolley, interim vice chancellor for University Advancement; Jim Schecter, general manager of USC Upstate Dining Services; Interim Chancellor Derham Cole; Chancellor’s Fellow Sharan Ravishankar; and Deb Kladviko, associate director of Service Learning and Volunteer Services.

Dining Services Contributes to Spartan Pantry

Sodexo, the international food services group that helps operate USC Upstate Dining Services, recently donated more than \$2,600 to the Spartan Pantry. The gift comes at a time when the Pantry and students need it most.

“Through the Spartan Pantry we are able to provide students who are in serious financial need with food and basic necessities,” said Deb Kladviko, associate director of Service Learning and Volunteer Services. “This donation

will go a long way to assist many USC Upstate students—especially now, during a time when many families are struggling financially.”

Jim Schecter, general manager of USC Upstate Dining Services, says each semester students have an opportunity to use meal plan dollars to support a variety of charitable organizations. Additionally, this year Sodexo donated a dollar to the Spartan Pantry for each student survey taken.

SAVE THE DATE!

HOMECOMING 2021

March 21-27



Follow our social media accounts for forthcoming details!

UPSTATE
University of South Carolina

CHANCELLOR’S FELLOWS ETIQUETTE DINNER

The Etiquette Dinner is an opportunity for the Chancellor’s Fellows to learn how to present themselves professionally in a job or interview setting. Topics that were covered during the November dinner included clothing selection, the importance of first impressions, body language, cellphone usage, place settings, table conversation, social distancing, and presenting business cards. The Chancellor’s Fellows act as the university’s ambassadors at events sponsored by the USC Upstate Office of University Advancement and Office of the Chancellor.



Back Row Left to Right - Aronde Stewart '22, Nehemiah Chandler '21, Sharan Ravishankar '21, DJ Vickery '22
Front Row Left to Right - Daniela Isaza '22, Gregory Castillo '22, Gracie Adams '21



Nehemiah Chandler, Interim Chancellor J. Derham Cole and First Lady Suzy Cole



Associate Athletic Director for Development John Fray, Director of Special Events Hillary McArthur and her student assistant, Chancellor's Fellow Daniela Isaza, Interim Vice Chancellor for University Advancement Kim Jolley, and DJ Vickery



Nehemiah Chandler, Gracie Adams, Sharan Ravishankar, DJ Vickery, Sam Bauer, Sarah Butler, Hannah Terpack

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION VIDEO SHOOT

Through storytelling, Smitha Lee, '12, captured the passions and personal stories of fellow alumni from their time at USC Upstate. Special thanks to Matt Cash, '07, LaTunya Means, '92, Taft Matney, '97, Ryon Smalls, '14, Jane Bottsford, '69, Jocelyn Allen Jones, '10, and Shuling Guan, '14, for sharing their experiences and enthusiasm for their alma mater.



Matt Cash '07



Men's Basketball Head Coach Dave Dickerson



Ann Angermeier, USC Upstate Foundation Board Member

SPARTAN GOLF CLASSIC

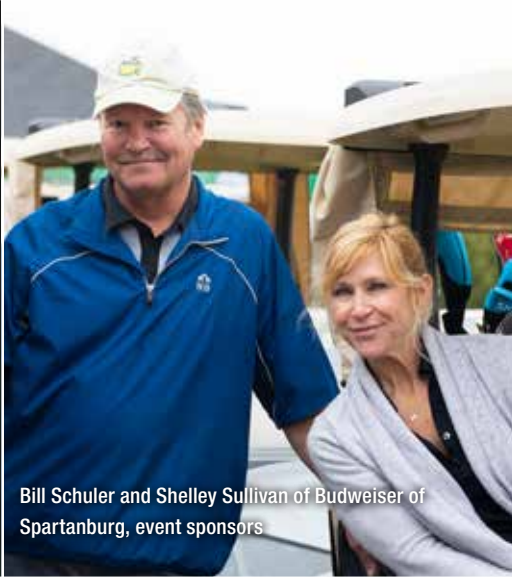
Under overcast skies, the USC Upstate Athletics Department hosted a successful Spartan Golf Classic at the Woodfin Ridge Country Club in Inman in October. A total of 19 teams and 76 individuals participated. The Spartan Golf Classic is one of two signature events put on by the U Club annually. The U Club helps create transformative opportunities for USC Upstate student-athletes by contributing to scholarships, facility upgrades, NCAA championship experiences and much more.



Ron G. Smith of McMillan Pazdan Smith



University of South Carolina Athletics Hall of Famer Colin Mackie



Bill Schuler and Shelley Sullivan of Budweiser of Spartanburg, event sponsors



Associate Athletics Director and Head Softball Coach Chris Hawkins



Jack Todd, left, Cross Country head coach for Spartanburg High School



Macy Lee Chadwick, sister of the late Josh Lee, with her husband, Michael Chadwick, and their daughter Laney Isabella



Johnny R. Lee, father of the late Josh Lee, with his granddaughter Laney Isabella

JOSH LEE MEMORIAL 5K

USC Upstate Athletics, in partnership with Johnny and Laurie Lee of Spartanburg, held the 5th Annual Josh Lee Memorial 5K in October on the Upstate campus. The annual event honors the late Josh Lee, a USC Upstate cross country student-athlete who was killed in a car accident in October 2015. Proceeds from the race go toward the Josh Lee Memorial Scholarship, which was established by the Lee family. The scholarship is awarded each year to a member of the cross country/track and field team who is a rising sophomore with at least a 3.0 GPA and in good standing on the team.

Upstate Loses a Champion

BY TREVOR ANDERSON

Though she stood just over 5 feet tall, Dolores “Dodie” F. Anderson will be remembered as a giant among those who have helped shape the University of South Carolina Upstate since its founding in 1967.

A devoted supporter of USC Upstate Athletics, Anderson died in July at age 92.

In 2010, Anderson gave USC Upstate \$4 million to renovate the G.B. Hodge Center, where the university’s basketball and volleyball teams practice and compete. It stands as the largest single gift to the Athletics Department in the university’s history.

“Dodie Anderson was a champion of USC Upstate, our athletic department and our basketball programs,” says Daniel Feig, USC Upstate’s director of athletics and vice chancellor for intercollegiate athletics.

“She was a true servant leader and cared so deeply for her alma mater,” Feig adds. “Her generosity and spirit of giving have had a profound impact on the experience of hundreds of Spartan student-athletes that have walked the halls of the G.B. Hodge Center over the years. Her impact on USC Upstate will be felt for many years to come and we will miss her dearly.”

In the 1940s, Anderson and her husband, the late Robert “Bob” W. Anderson, founded Anderson Hardwood Floors in Clinton. Together they grew the venture into one of the largest privately owned hardwood floor manufacturers in the United States.

To enrich her life, Anderson returned to college at the age of 48, enrolling at Greenville Technical College. She later transferred to USC Upstate (then USC Spartanburg), where she earned a bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary studies in 1981.

Anderson remained an avid fan of

USC Upstate’s basketball program, and attended games into her 90s. She generously gave of her time and money to support a variety of academic and athletic endeavors at her alma mater and other institutions in the state.

“She had a wonderful spirit about her that was very can-do,” says former USC Upstate head men’s basketball coach Eddie Payne (2002-2017). “Let’s improve this. Let’s make it better. That was always her focus. She financially supported the 25th reunion of our (1982 NAIA) national champion men’s basketball team. She gave money to bring (Rhodes scholar and 1981 alum) Dr. Daniel Dreisbach to USC Upstate. She gave to the Chancellor’s Fund. She gave money to plant trees. Dodie loved her school and supported it in every way that she could. She told me on more than one occasion that giving money added years to her life. She loved helping people.”

The University of South Carolina opened its \$13.5 million, 40,000-square-

foot Dodie Anderson Academic Center in 2010. Anderson gave \$5 million toward the cost of the structure. Nicknamed “The Dodie,” the center serves as a hub for resources that help UofSC student-athletes succeed in the classroom.

In 2018, Anderson gave \$2 million to Greenville Technical College to help establish the Dreisbach/Anderson Student Success Center, intended to welcome, support and provide students with the tools to help create transformative opportunities through education. That gift is one of the largest in Greenville Tech’s history.

“It’s important people understand that she wasn’t from a privileged background,” Payne says “She and Bob worked for what they had and were more than willing to give. That kind of charity isn’t very prevalent, especially today.”

Anderson was sharp-witted and loved to have fun, Payne says.

“My wife and I became really good friends with Dodie,” Payne says. “There came a point in time where she asked,

“She had a wonderful spirit about her that was very can-do,” former USC Upstate men’s basketball coach Eddie Payne says of the late Dodie Anderson.



Dodie Anderson is recognized by former Chancellor John Stockwell for her contributions to USC Upstate Athletics. Anderson, an avid basketball fan, could frequently be seen cheering on the Spartans at the G.B. Hodge Center.

‘What can I do for you?’ I never asked her. Her efforts benefitted the entire athletic department. Her philanthropy extended into other areas of the institution. The greatest gift she had was her enthusiasm for helping other people. And she really liked seeing that her giving made a difference.”

The Spartanburg County Commission for Higher Education (SCCHE) in 2014 presented Anderson with its highest honor, the G.B. Hodge, M.D. Lifetime Achievement Award, in recognition of her influence on the “shape, character and destiny” of USC Upstate.

Anderson received the SCCHE’s Founders’ Day Award in 1986 and was inducted into USC Upstate’s Honor Fraternity in 2005. She was a former member of the USC Upstate Foundation

board of directors.

In 2006, on the 25th anniversary of her graduation from USC Upstate, Anderson was given the Distinguished Alumni of the Year award.

Anderson was awarded the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina’s highest civilian honor, by Gov. Henry McMaster in May 2019.

“Our hearts are heavy as we mourn the loss of a fellow Spartan whose passion and generosity has created many opportunities for us to support our student-athletes in their pursuit of higher education,” says USC Upstate Interim Chancellor Derham Cole. “Dodie’s legacy of giving is certainly one to be emulated and will continue to thrive on our campus and others in South Carolina.”

Born in Forest Park, Ill., on May 12, 1928, Anderson was the daughter of the late Edward and Randine Femer, who were Norwegian immigrants. She is survived by four daughters, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

“From the first time I met Dodie, her passion for USC Upstate was evident,” says USC Upstate head men’s basketball coach Dave Dickerson. “She loved the Spartans and helped our program grow by leaps and bounds. She will be remembered fondly by our student-athletes and coaches, but her legacy will live on here at USC Upstate forever.”

Women's Soccer Makes an Impact During the Pandemic

Many will remember the year 2020 as a time of tremendous hardship and pain. However, members of the USC Upstate Women's Soccer team volunteered their time and energy to ensure that a least some of those who are struggling could have their basic needs met during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In July, the program helped collect canned food items and financial contributions as part of the nationwide Soccer United Against Hunger Initiative, established by the United Soccer Coaches to help with food shortages created by the global pandemic.

Through a partnership with Ingles Markets, the team gathered more than 380 pounds of non-perishable food items at 10 of the grocery chain's stores in Spartanburg County. They donated their haul to the county's branch of Second Harvest of Metrolina.

Courtney Cranmer, of Oakville, Ontario, Canada; Jayna Tyler, of Brooksville, Florida; Jane Bossler, of

Reading, Pennsylvania; Natasha Ferriera, of Winter Garden, Florida; and Stephanie Linton, of Odessa, Florida, hosted virtual donation drives that raised more than \$1,500 for food banks in their hometowns.

"We are grateful for the generosity of those who donated, not only here in Spartanburg, but in the virtual drives held to benefit those in local communities Florida, Pennsylvania and Ontario," says Lenny Mathis, USC Upstate's senior associate athletic director for external operations. "As a group, we want to thank Ingles for their partnership and assistance in making the drive here in Spartanburg a success and making an impact for Second Harvest."

"I especially want to thank Jackie Marshall, coach Liz Manner and all the members of the women's soccer program for their leadership and stepping up to push this important initiative," Mathis adds. "It shows their great character to work so hard on this project and helping others in a time of

Goalkeeper Logan Pace logged more than 400 hours of community service from April through August, taking part in food drives and other projects assisting those in need.



significant need."

In August, goalkeeper Logan Pace, a junior from Belmont, North Carolina, took part in Elevation Outreach's annual "Love Week," which reaches local communities from the Southeast to Canada. But that wasn't all for Pace.

From April through August, she logged more than 400 hours of community service that included food drives and other initiatives in her home state. She also served with MedAssist, a nonprofit pharmacy that helps low-income patients with their medical and medication bills, and the A21 Foundation, a nonprofit that fights human trafficking across the world.


"Logan has grown so much over the past year and it has been awesome to see her find her passion in serving others," says Sarah Gildersleeve, associate athletic director for student-athlete enrichment/SWA at USC Upstate. "She serves in various



The USC Upstate Women's Soccer team helps prepare backpacks with school supplies for children in need during an Elevation Outreach event over the summer.

leadership roles within student-athlete organizations, including SAAC (Student-Athlete Advisement Committee) and FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes), and I'm looking forward to her bringing her experience from Elevation Outreach to Upstate. I'm so proud of Logan and am excited to see how she continues impacting our Upstate and

Spartanburg communities."

"Getting to know so many people and hearing so many amazing stories has affected me on a deep level," Pace says. "I can't wait to take all of that back to the soccer field and to my teammates. I have learned that right outside of USC Upstate people need help." 



Goalkeeper Logan Pace and members of the women's soccer team took part in multiple volunteer programs over the summer to help communities here and in their hometowns.

Atlantic Sun (ASUN) Conference All-Decade

Earlier this year, the Atlantic Sun (ASUN) Conference announced their All-Decade teams, and several Spartans were selected for the 2001-2010 and the 2011-2019 teams.

USC Upstate joined the ASUN in 2007, when its athletics program made the jump from NCAA Division II to Division I. More than two dozen Spartans made the cut.

2001-2010

Morgan Childers, Softball, 2008-11
Josh Gallman, Men's Golf, 2007-10
Perish Goggins, Men's Track and Field, 2008-12
Anna Novo, Women's Tennis, 2005-09
Edgar Rodriguez, Men's Tennis, 2008-11
Emily Tangwar, Women's Cross Country and Track and Field, 2007-10

2011-2019

Karla Beasley, Softball, 2015-18
Gaither Bumgardner, Baseball, 2010-13
Brittany Case, Softball, 2016-19
Tee'Ara Copney, Women's Basketball, 2009-13
Ryan Cornfield, Men's Golf, 2012-16
Torrey Craig, Men's Basketball, 2010-13
Ansley Gilstrap, Softball, 2016-18
Ty Greene, Men's Basketball, 2011-14
Cheyenne Griffin, Softball, 2012-15
Gilbert Kemboi, Men's Cross Country, 2010-13
Holly McKinnon, Softball, 2016-17
Chelsea McMillan, Women's Basketball, 2008-11
Anna Miller, Softball, 2013-14
Shellie Robinson, Softball, 2012-15
Jemeli Sang, Women's Cross Country and Track and Field, 2008-11
Marvin Schmiede, Men's Soccer, 2012-14
Lexi Shubert, Softball 2013-17
Brittany Starling, Women's Basketball, 2012-16
Kenny Sugishita, Men's Track and Field, 2011-13

The Lasting Legacy of Coach Jerry Waters

Jerry Waters arrived at USC Spartanburg in 1980 to take the reins of a fledgling men's basketball program. By the time he left in 1997, the small-town Georgia native had established the program as a regional powerhouse and cemented his status as a coaching legend at the university and beyond.

Waters, who died in December, was the winningest men's basketball coach in university history. The teams he led during his tenure at Upstate won an NAIA National Championship in 1982, three NAIA District Six Championships and two

Peach Belt Athletic Conference Championships. From 1989 through 1993, the program carried on a 50-game winning streak.

At Upstate, Waters compiled an overall record of 364-133 (.732) and was named the NCAA Division II Coach of the Year in 1991. During his 47-year career, which included 25 years at the high school level and 22 years at the collegiate level, Waters accumulated a 859-299 (.742) record.

"When Coach Waters came in, he really instilled a great deal of discipline," says James Holland, '82, a USC Upstate

Hall of Famer and a key member of the 1982 National Championship squad, who now serves as a senior associate commissioner for the Big South Conference.

"You don't understand what's going on at the time," Holland says. "You just think this guy is being a tough guy and a mean guy, but really, he is instilling discipline and direction for the team and pushing everyone to be their best. I give Coach Waters a great deal of credit for his leadership with the direction of the program at the time."

The road to success

Sports buffs know that victories typically do not happen immediately for new coaches, especially at the collegiate level. It takes time for their ideas and methods to take root. It takes a few recruiting cycles for coaches to acquire the players who not only best fit their vision, but who demonstrate a commitment to it by being stellar on and off the court.

Success came almost immediately for Waters at USC Spartanburg. During his first season, he led the team to the NAIA National Tournament.

"I always wanted to climb the ladder, as any young coach would," Waters recalled in a 2020 interview with USC Upstate Athletics. "When the opportunity for the USC Spartanburg job came, it was a chance for me to be at a bigger school. I took that job and everything went well from there."

While the accomplishment of his inaugural season might have been satisfactory for some coaches, Holland said it wasn't enough for Waters.

"Any time you're competing on a team, you always want your next year to be better than the previous season," Holland says. "Going into Coach Waters' second year, there was a great deal of focus on the fact that we didn't accomplish the ultimate goal the year before. It would have been easier to just say we went to the national tournament his first year, pat yourself on the back and get complacent. But Coach Waters made us feel like there was a lot of unfinished business out there."

For his second season, Waters added another USC Upstate Hall of Famer,

Odell Cleveland, to his roster. Cleveland was previously part of a high school team that won a state championship under Waters' leadership.

Holland says the team's mindset wasn't necessarily to go in and win the national championship. Rather, just go further than the previous year.

"I can't speak for everyone on the team," Holland says. "But for me, coming back after my junior year where we won our first game and lost our second game at nationals, it was OK if we could win two games. That would have been an improvement from the previous season."

Cleveland notes the buzz surrounding the team that year.

"You had to show up to the games early to get a seat," he says. "The gym was packed and they were turning people away ... We were the junkyard underdogs from Spartanburg and that's just kind of how we played. We weren't the fanciest team out there, but we played hard and won and the community rallied around us."

As the team headed to Kansas City for the second consecutive year to face teams they had never played before, they frequently repeated their season mantra: "No ifs."

"Odell credits me with that saying, but I never really thought about it, because at the time I was just living it," Holland says. "It was very simple. Toward the end of the game, no matter what the situation was, we would come together and I would say, 'Hey fellas, no ifs.' Basically, I meant exactly that. When the game was over with, we didn't want to go back in the locker room and talk about what we coulda, woulda, shoulda done to win the game."

By the time the team reached the tournament championship, facing an undefeated, nationally ranked Biola team, the phrase had become a battle cry.

Legends and legacies

Holland is credited with the final blow that secured the championship for his side. He drew a key foul on a layup and made his free throw.

"I think our mental toughness, along with Coach Waters' coaching ability, the team's commitment, and James



James Holland cuts down the net following USC Spartanburg's victory. Photo: USC Upstate Archives

Holland's leadership is what allowed us to win the national championship," says Cleveland. "We may not have been the best team ability-wise, but we had the biggest hearts. We weren't afraid, we believed in each other and played for each other and I think that made all the difference."

In 1997, Waters left USC Spartanburg to become the assistant coach at the University of Georgia.

After UGA, Waters joined MacIntosh Academy in Georgia, where he served as a middle school guidance counselor, athletic director and golf coach for one year before taking over the boys' basketball program at Pinewood Christian Academy.

Waters returned to the Palmetto State to coach at Chapman High School. His teams made the state playoffs three out of his four years in charge. He retired from coaching in 2012.

"The reason Coach Waters was so successful in every transition is the fact that he wanted people who would win," Cleveland says. "He wanted to put the

best team forward because above everything else, Coach Waters wanted to win. That's how I think he was able to transition from a USC Upstate to a University of Georgia to a high school, because he was brilliant."

"If you look at his history, Coach Waters won at every level everywhere he went, and that's not just happenstance. There's something a person has in them that they can create in others – pushing people to get outside their comfort zone just enough without pushing them away or breaking them," Holland says.

Waters was inducted into the USC Upstate Hall of Fame in 2000. He also co-authored the book "Born to be a Coach" with Cleveland, who directed and produced a video with the same title.

"As I think about the players that played for me over the years at every level, I always think about them as people," Waters told USC Upstate. "I always want players who want to give of themselves and be a part of something bigger than themselves." ■

Coach Jerry Waters gives last-minute instructions to the team.



Labor of Love

Former men's cross country and track and field team member Alex Love, '17, recently paid a visit to his alma mater. Love, who is originally from Pasadena, Maryland, earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in communications with a concentration in mass media.

After college, he went to work as a sports reporter for KGHI Nebraska TV, an ABC affiliate station in Kearney, Nebraska. In September 2018, he joined WJTV 12, a CBS affiliate in Jackson, Mississippi, as a news reporter.

In August 2019, Love made national headlines with his breaking coverage of widespread raids by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents at food processing plants in the state. Love's reporting on the hundreds of arrests, and the children left temporarily homeless as a result, drew praise from MSNBC host Lawrence O'Donnell.



Q: Why did you choose to attend USC Upstate?

A: I chose Upstate after coach Carson Blackwelder reached out to me with an opportunity to run for the cross country and track programs, which were my standout sports in high school. After I visited, I knew — since I wanted to

travel out of state for school and learn new things — it was my best option. And I never regretted the decision.

Q: How did you choose your current career path?

A: I was always a mass media major in the communications department. My

career goals in the news field began when I was a junior in college and started announcing sports for high school games and the morning news club to my school. I never stopped to think of something else while attending USC Upstate.

Q: What was it like getting started at USC Upstate?

A: I began working basketball, baseball and softball games during my freshman year, volunteering with the ESPN 3 crew as a utility boy and cameraman. It was a real revelation about how much you need to know and be willing to work when considering a job in media. But I took it all in game by game. As for announcing, that started my freshman year. At Upstate, I only did PA announcing. That, too, was a challenge that has paid off in what I do today. I started filling in at a couple of baseball games. By my senior year, I became the full-time soccer, volleyball, and even

basketball announcer. It was a thrill to rock the fields and courts for fans and player. To get them pumped up and bring their highlights to the spotlight was really rewarding.

Q: What are some of your best memories during your time at the university?

A: The first memory that comes to mind was from my junior year, when I filled in as the PA for women's basketball as they took on Stetson, which was their conference rival at the time. It was the fourth quarter and senior Shelby Hicks, who I still talk to to this day, hit a buzzer beater to win the game. I screamed into the mic, "THREE POINTER!" And Upstate came from behind to win. It made the SportsCenter Top Ten later that night. You could hear me in the background, which was so cool and probably why I love to do this. Honestly, every game, whether it was a win or loss, was a special experience for me because I learned how to stay positive.

Q: What other opportunities did you seek out while a student at USC Upstate?

A: I was able to take advantage of some

great internships that gave me hands-on training to land my dream job reporting. First, with ESPN Upstate radio back in 2015. It was great to cover the (NFL Carolina) Panthers training camp through them, as well as learning everything about broadcasting and building shows. I got to interview coach Don Staley when they brought the conference championship to Greenville, as well as co-host a couple times with Greg McKinney and Ken Blankenship on "The Huddle." I also became digital sports director for Greertoday.com. I got to cover high school and college sports and even got to interview Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers when he came to a celebrity golf tournament over the summer in 2017. I was also a video reporter and covered the Gamecocks when they won their third conference championship in Greenville.

Q: What has been your recipe for success?

A: Becoming a news reporter for a CBS affiliate would not have been possible without USC Upstate. In particular, all of the mentors and support that came from the people here. Upstate taught me to do what I'm doing today. The

ingredients were repetition with writing, speaking, editing, filming, reporting and more. One of my biggest undertakings here was pioneering my own sports talk show, "Spartan Sports Network," as my senior project. I would interview players and coaches, break down highlights and discuss stats after games. At the time, our athletic department and student newspaper did not have digital outlets dedicated to this kind of coverage so it mattered to the teams, the parents and me. Between the classes, internships and PA announcing, I learned all I could about the positions, both in front and behind the scenes, to report a great segment in news and sports. Now, my dream is a reality, and I wake up every morning excited and happy to go to work because I'm doing what I love!

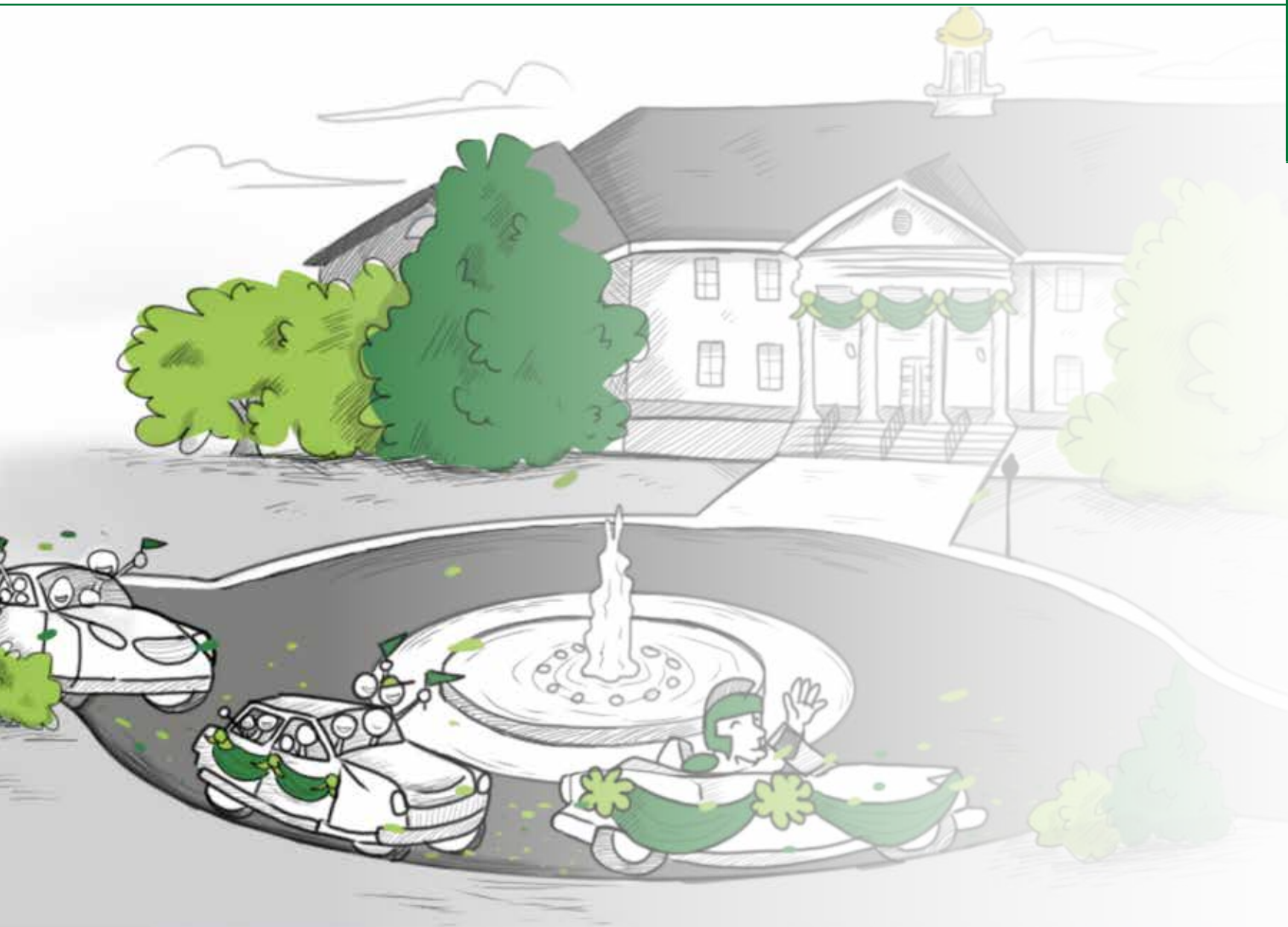
Q: Do you have any advice for those who might follow you?

A: I only hope other mass media majors at Upstate see the same path I saw despite not being at a huge school with tons of resources at your fingertips. Many times, I had to create things with what I had or go on my own ideas, but it can be made and done just like anywhere else.



Alex Love, '17, who majored in communications at Upstate, visited a few old haunts while he was back on campus.





CLASS OF 2020 DECEMBER GRADUATES

USC Upstate honors the 2020 December graduates, who along with college seniors across the country, completed their final semester online. Despite the challenges of adapting to new ways of learning and the disappointment of postponed celebrations, USC Upstate graduates excelled.

COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Isaac C. Abee
Tyler C. Adams
Magna Cum Laude
Zabriel Y. Adams
Jacob E. Anderson
Jordan Nicole Baird
Brady A. Bennett
Benjamin Bernstein
Joi A. Bigby
Ghaida S. Bin Majed
Chasity A. Blume
Marcus S. Broome
Charlisa N. Brown
Jhennel Brown
Danielle W. Bullard
Melissa A. Burbury
Teresa A. Burdine
Alicia S. Castle
Yakira S. Choice
Kyle J. Chrzanowski
Maria A. Chulkas
Hailey D. Coe
D'Anna L. Crawford
Alexandra T. Crossby
April E. Curtis
Brittany K. Davis
Chelsea Deluna
Aidan G. Dingler
Julia A. Doiron
Cameron J. Dragoo
Nathalie M. Espina

Florinda C. Evans +
Denise L. Felder +
Christine E. Fernandez
Jennifer A. Finnegan
De'Naisha L. Floyd
Colin J. Foley
Zachary L. Fortner
Katherine E. Gilbaugh
Magna Cum Laude
Mynique P. Goodwin
Bryanna M. Hamilton +
Lunden C. Hancock
Alisa B. Harbison
Zachariah S. Haskett
Zachariah S. Haskett
Jennifer L. Hayes
Logan M. Hollis
Daydreona T. Huggins
Madisyn H. Hughes
Khor Hunter
Kennedi O. Jeter
Arletta P. Johnson
Shania M. Johnson
Wendell K. Jones
ZaQuinton R. Kennebrew
Tyler H. Kirby
Jordan C. Lawson
Brittany Legge
Jantira M. Lem
Tyshonda T. Ling
Anna G. Littleton



AIDAN DINGLER
B.A., Communications
I had the pleasure of spending some time in Washington, D.C., with some extraordinary communication students along with Dr. Kofoed and Dr. Wallace. While that was easily the most enjoyable experience during my time here, some of the best times included simply studying in the library with friends. Those little moments are the ones I will miss the most! So savor every moment, cherish the friends you make along the way, and go to your professor's office hours! Building a strong relationship with your professors not only helps you academically, but the connections you make with them can last a lifetime.

Yolanda C. Lopez
Cum Laude
Abbey L. Lukac
Nyeisha Lyde
Kristina Manson +
Harlea M. Martin
Caroline M. McCann
Freida A. McCarroll
Tristin E. McDaniel
John H. McGinnis
Taylor M. Medlin
Gina M. Moroz
Princess E. Moss
Hawwa K. Muhammad
Aalexis Munford
Aaliyah T. Munford
Keyarria R. Nelson
Leandrea N. Nienke
Emily L. Nimmons
Ashley S. Norval
Adrian O. Odhiambo
Sarah J. Panebianco
Cameron M. Patterson
Thanh N. Pham
Lynwood Pixley
Jazmine C. Porter
Amira H. Rahaim-Celestin
Mary M. Reid
LeAnna J. Rhett
Ananda T. Rice
Savannah C. Roach
Daniel L. Robinson

Megan E. Robinson
Linnea M. Rogers
Clayton C. Rosengarten +
Larissa K. Sands
Staesha S. Saunders
Tavis J. Shaw
Justin C. Shell
Feenix M. Smith
Megan E. Stoffer
Angel M. Sumpter
Moseanique J. Swint
Moseanique J. Swint
Austin S. Terrell
Jakoby D. Thompson
Otis Thompson
Mikayla A. Trammell
Elijah A. Tucker
Tyler Turner
Yasmine A. Walker
Chloe Westmoreland
Joseph P. Wheeler
Emily M. White
Joshua A. Wilkes
Olajuwan D. Wilkins
Tia L. Williams
Jon R. Williamson
Luke D. Wright
Savannah G. Young



CLIFFORD SUMPTER
B.A., Information Management and Systems
While USC Upstate has given me a lot of opportunities to do a wide range of things and activities, I am grateful for the many gatherings, relaxed weekends, spontaneous outings with friends, late-night conversations, and all the laughter I have shared with my amazing friends here. My advice is follow your curiosity but be both open-minded and skeptical. Mistakes are bound to happen. It's what you do differently the next time that matters. So do not let anyone else define success for you.

GRADUATE
Jessie S. Cochran
Christina Harvey

+ Veterans

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



KATRINA RANGEL
B.A. Computer Information Systems

My favorite memory of my time at Upstate is all the great people I have had the pleasure of meeting. The professors in the CS department are some of my favorites from my academic career, and I'm glad I had the opportunity to learn so much from them. My advice would be study hard, don't be afraid to ask questions, make connections with your professors and fellow students, take advantage of the great opportunities provided to meet with potential employers, and remember to take time to relax and de-stress.

Latoyia J. Anderson
Debbie A. Antoine
Cum Laude
Zachary J. Bailey
Kyle R. Batson
Brooke L. Bennett
Allie K. Berry
Cum Laude
Jefferson Bradley
William T. Bridges
Kaara A. Brown
Katelyn A. Collins
Brittany M. Combs
Jack A. Counterman
Carrie E. Ferro
Lyndsey K. Fields

Deonta' T. Gee
Kaitlan M. Grab
Douglas E. Greeley
John M. Greer
Clay A. Honeycutt
Bouvier Howard
Nicholas Jeter
Isaiah Johnson
David M. Jones
Evan F. Jones
Kristina Karasev
Tamika L. King
Ethan D. Kortie *
Lesley J. Lobo
Eric J. Marlowe
Michael S. Maroney

GEORGE DEAN JOHNSON, JR. COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS



KAYLA BISHOP
B.S. Business Administration

Before I left to study abroad in Germany, I was introduced to a few international students and Upstate students who had traveled to another country. I became close with a few girls from Europe, gained insight into aspects of their culture, and learned from their experiences coming to the USA. I made one close friend in particular that I saw often after moving to Germany. I would advise future Spartans to speak up when you have a question or concern and take advantage of your professor's office hours. I gained confidence by figuring out how to articulate my thoughts in a professional manner.

Samuel Mcgaha
Komal Mehta
Jenifer Mejia
Thomas Midek
Travis R. Mims
Allensia D. Muller
Destinee K. Panyasiri
John B. Pyle
Katrina N. Rangel
Stephanie L. Reynolds
Austin J. Robbins
Maya R. Rogers
Marianna F. Sakalosh
Jared C. Scruggs



PATRICIA RUTTO
B.S., BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

My favorite memories have happened here on campus! From late night study sessions in the library and making long-lasting friendships to participating in Track & Cross Country as a student athlete. The community at USC Upstate has shaped and taught me to be independent – ready to take on the world! I am so thankful to all my professors for teaching me and ensuring that I succeed in my studies. As an international student, it can be easy to feel alone. I learned to ask for help whenever I needed it. I have been blessed with the most amazing co-workers, friends, professors, etc. I would advise you to be willing to learn as you go. Enjoy your college experience and always put in the work. It pays off when you walk across the stage during your graduation!

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Kevin H. Star
Clifford W. Sumpter
Timothey L. Thao
Darius Walker
Matthew E. Watson
Matthew Wilkey
Asiah M. Wynn

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Katrina E. Grabovskiy
Brittany Greene
Mallory E. Greene
Jade S. Hall
Kathren A. Hamby
Maggie L. Hardaway
Alyssa C. Harriz

JARED COCCIA
B.S., Nursing

It is hard to choose a favorite memory from my time at USC Upstate. As a student-athlete, two highlights were hosting the conference meet my freshman year and supporting the women's soccer team in a win against Winthrop University on Couch Night. Academically, a highlight was finishing my first nursing clinical and looking back on how good it felt to have an impact on a patient's treatment and healing process. If I could give advice to new students, it would be to always work hard and do not procrastinate. Dedication and time management are very important to success throughout college.



JACOB COCCIA
B.S., Nursing

Throughout my time at USC Upstate I made countless memories I will never forget. Some of my favorites were traveling to Virginia and Florida to compete on the cross country and track teams, and going to Couch Night to support the women's soccer team when they beat Winthrop. My advice to incoming freshmen would be to work hard and sign up for the free tutoring at the beginning of any hard classes, take advantage of any opportunities that come your way, go to sporting events, and make as many friends as possible.

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Charity G. Harvin
Emma K. Hendricks
Jonathan Hill
Kristina M. Hill
Elizabeth Hines
Megan A. Hines
Brandon S. Hoffman
D'Nasia N. Holmes
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Leah A. Wylie
Keyanna J. Young
Graciela Zamudio

* Veterans

* Veterans

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Kristen N. Belcher
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HELENE MOORE-HAYWOOD
M.A., Teaching (Special Education)

My favorite memory was the summer of 2018 during the anatomy, physiology and disorders of the visual system course, where my classmates and I were tasked with dissecting the eye of a cow. Little did I know that this assignment would be the infrastructure of unfeigned personal and professional relationships. Regardless of the path you are travelling, answer the call of your purpose, without delay. One's purpose is intentional and will be met imminently, oftentimes without regard to our personal desires. Embrace purpose early on to truly be impactful for those your purpose is intended to benefit.

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Ashleigh W. Dozier
Sheri A. Dubois
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Arista S. Edwards
Joanna R. Forsythe
Makisha E. Fowler
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Marylee M. Kneisley
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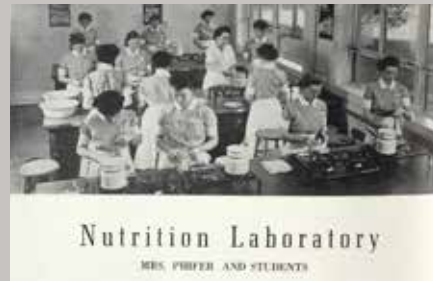
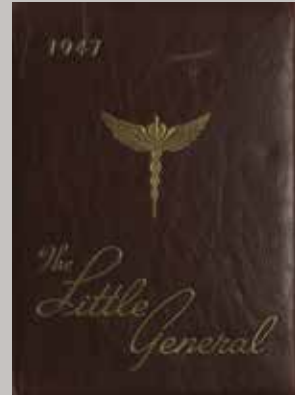
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General Education



While the nursing school at USC Upstate is relatively young – it was central to the creation of the USC Spartanburg campus in 1967 – its roots extend back much further. In 1921, Spartanburg General Hospital opened its doors, with a nursing school as part of its operations. The program graduated its first class in 1922, and continued to provide trained nurses to the hospital up through its final class in 1969.

In 1947, student nurses created their first school yearbook, *The Little General*. Like a typical high school yearbook, there are pictures of each class – freshmen, juniors and seniors (no sophomores, though juniors were divided into two classes). A copy in the USC Upstate archives contains autographs with inside jokes shared between friends. Pictures depict nurses studying in the library, preparing food in the nutrition lab and tending to babies in the nursery, while casual snapshots show lake outings, glee club and dances. There is even a superlatives

page – most likely to succeed, most popular, most talented, biggest flirt.

The first edition of the yearbook was notable for another reason as well. For the first time in the school's history, African American students were admitted to the program that year. "It is with admiration that we accept them into our School of Nursing, and may they be the inspiration of others to follow," reads the message above the names and group picture of the six young women. Yet despite the welcoming words, the women are not pictured anywhere else in the book, nor do they show up in the yearbooks that immediately follow.

As the years went on, new school activities appeared in *The Little General*: cheerleading, basketball, softball. There was a school newspaper, too, "The White Cap," first published on Feb. 21, 1951. The *Little General* continued to publish every year until the final class of senior nurses graduated in 1969. By then, Spartanburg General had partnered with the University

of South Carolina to create USC Spartanburg, as hospital-based nursing programs nationwide transitioned to university-based models.

The USC Upstate archives currently holds every edition of *The Little General* but two – 1948 and 1951. University archivist Ann Merryman is hopeful that someone in the community may have those volumes and be willing to donate them, or bring them to the library to be scanned. She notes the yearbooks are important because they're a direct link to the university's history – "the precursor to us," she says.

"It's a real interesting part of our history," Merryman adds. "It's just another way to get our alumni and our community to connect back to us." ■

YOU CAN HELP!

Do you have a copy of the 1948 or 1951 edition of *The Little General*, or any copies of "The White Cap" student newspaper? If so, we would like to connect with you! Please contact Ann Merryman, USC Upstate archivist, at 864-503-5275 or merrymaa@uscupstate.edu.

SAVE the DATES

Women's Entrepreneurship Symposium

Thursday, Sept. 30 and
Friday, Oct. 1, 2021

Johnson College of Business and Economics

This event will bring together women entrepreneurs from around the Upstate to network, participate in educational and professional workshops, and showcase their businesses.

For more information, contact Brian Brady, director of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, at bbrady3@uscupstate.edu or 864-503-7623.



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