

# UP

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

**SPRING 2020**

## IN A CLASS OF THEIR OWN

*A special tribute to our  
2020 graduates*



### **Drone Wars**

How an army in the  
sky could fight fires


### **Homespun History**

What a mill can teach  
us about a community

### **Looking Ahead**

A glimpse of the  
campus of the future





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## UP Magazine

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## Letter from THE CHANCELLOR

At the risk of overusing a term, “unprecedented” seems to best describe the challenges we’ve faced this semester as a campus community and as a nation. The COVID-19 pandemic is, indeed, unprecedented. It has changed the way we operate. It has changed the way we communicate. It has changed the way we do just about everything, from shopping for groceries to earning a college degree.

But from this mysterious, perplexing time, I have seen change that will, undoubtedly, make our university and the world a better place. I have seen faculty and students make a shift to remote teaching and learning, enhancing our preparedness for an uncertain future. We have gained invaluable experience in how to ensure the safety of our campus community under the most trying of circumstances, working closely with federal and state health organizations. And we have come together as professionals, colleagues and mentors in ways perhaps only a crisis can spark—all in the best interest of this university and the students and communities we serve.

While I am confident we will soon return to a time when we can gather together safely, we must honor the Class of 2020 in new ways, paying tribute to the resilience they have demonstrated this spring. In this issue of UP Magazine, we have included a special section dedicated to all those who would have celebrated Commencement with their families on the quad in May. We feature some students whose memories of their time on campus will inspire those who follow.

Our stories of student achievement have not changed. We are proud to be graduating teachers who have learned out of necessity to be nimble in the ways they share knowledge with their students, many of whom are learning online for the first time. Our new nurses enter the profession at a time when they have never been needed or admired more. And due in part to this pandemic, young psychologists and entrepreneurs may have come to know firsthand how much their work matters. We are so proud of the Class of 2020. They have already overcome adversity of historical magnitude, and their experience will prepare them to





meet myriad challenges in the future.

Our faculty continue to shine despite these challenging times. In this issue, you will read about several of our professors who are awaiting a decision on a prestigious grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). This is a timely, exciting project that puts Spartanburg's rich history as a mill town into the spotlight, one that illuminates the talent of this team and the role we can all play in teaching the past to improve the future. You will also read why Dr. Nolan Stolz was named a Breakthrough Star for 2020 by our flagship university, the University of South Carolina, and you will be charmed by a story of friendship that spans more than 40 years and ends with Dr. Lynette Gibson helping to develop an online program for nurses in Bermuda. You will learn about a new partnership between the university and Ingles Markets, one that has already benefitted students who have found these times particularly difficult.

Finally, we introduce you to some new Spartans and say goodbye to others. Kimberly Jolley, a longtime

partner in the community, joins USC Upstate to lead our foundation and fundraising initiatives. And, Dr. David Schecter takes the reins as provost, as Dr. Clif Flynn begins to enjoy retirement, a well-deserved respite after serving USC Upstate for more than 32 years.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as Interim Chancellor. Together, we will continue on our upward trajectory to achieve new levels of educational excellence.

J. Derham Cole, Jr., J.D.  
Interim Chancellor

USC Upstate bid farewell to Chancellor Brendan Kelly in February. His portrait, pictured above right, now hangs in the Administration building lobby.

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## New Master Plan Reveals Promising Future

As part of its annual Founders Day ceremony, USC Upstate unveiled a new Master Plan that illustrates the potential for growth on campus. The plan is intended to be implemented over an extensive period of time – between five and 20 years – and includes short-, mid- and long-term projects. The proposed plan will enhance the natural topography of the 330-acre campus, leveraging landscaping and water features, while placing buildings in locations that will maximize the campus experience for students, faculty, staff and visitors.

“The Master Plan marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for USC Upstate,” says Interim

Chancellor J. Derham Cole, Jr. “The plan will require continued collaboration among university, community and government leaders, and I am committed to being USC Upstate’s advocate in that dialogue.”

The future calls for a number of new buildings, including a much-needed annex for the library and an expansion of the Olin B. Sansbury, Jr. Campus Life Center, both of which would provide critical gathering spaces for students.

The proposed plan also includes a new nursing building for the Mary Black School of Nursing, one of the largest programs in the state, to be completed in partnership with the health care providers who employ

hundreds of USC Upstate graduates.

Other features are dedicated alumni and athletic performance centers, and a convocation center that could serve as an asset to the entire county, while also providing the university with an essential meeting and event venue. As with the other large-scale projects, a convocation center would be done in partnership with state, county and corporate leaders.

The plan was developed over a series of months by the national firm SmithGroup, with input from faculty, staff, students and key community stakeholders. “This was a collaborative process,” says Cole. “Together, we have developed a vision for the future.” 





## Housing Options Grow Near Campus


A new apartment complex, and an expansion at an existing one, will soon increase off-campus housing options for USC Upstate students and energize the university's ambitious Master Plan, which seeks to deliver state-of-the-art facilities that accommodate enrollment growth and new programs in the years to come.

Auden Upstate, a \$28 million upscale housing community at 602 Laconia Circle, just off North Campus Boulevard, is nearing completion. Leasing is now open for the 94,000-square-foot development, owned by New York-based DMG Investments. Residents will begin moving in this August.

The community features 486 private bedspaces, with a bathroom and walk-in closet for each. Other amenities include a resort-style pool, basketball and volleyball courts, a 24-hour fitness club, hammock garden, study rooms and a pet grooming station.

Valley Falls Apartments, a luxury apartment community located just behind USC Upstate at 510 Sparta Lane, is undergoing an expansion that will add 350 private bedspaces to its inventory of fully furnished units.

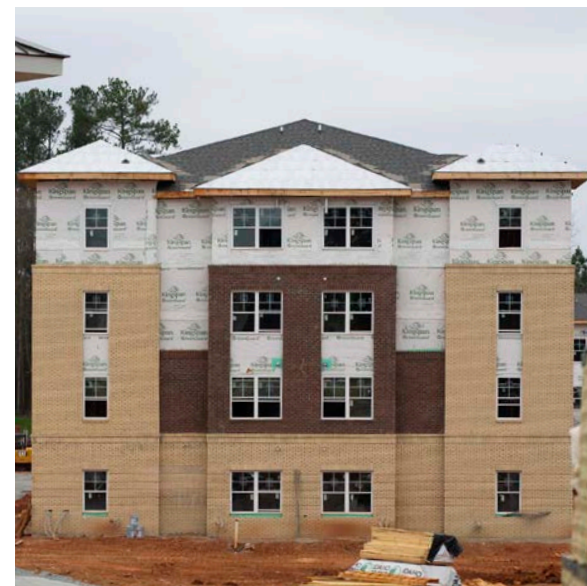
The community already boasts a number of amenities, including access to a small lake, a saltwater swimming pool with a sundeck, 24-hour fitness center, a sand volleyball court, fully equipped computer lab and clubhouse with free Wi-Fi. The additional units are anticipated to become available in 2021.

"We are absolutely thrilled that these new housing options for students will be coming online soon," said Donette Stewart, vice chancellor for Enrollment Services at USC Upstate. "Investments like this improve the college experience for USC Upstate students and help us to continue to build momentum behind the dynamic growth set forth in our new Master Plan." 



Campus Life Center Expansion

Expanding the Campus Life Center would include creating additional greenspace around the building.





# Schecter Joins USC Upstate as Provost

Following a national search, David Schecter joined USC Upstate this spring as its new provost and senior vice chancellor for Academic Affairs. Most recently, Schecter served as vice provost at California State University — Bakersfield (CSUB). Prior to that, he was with Fresno State, also part of the California State University System.

“Dr. Schecter brings to USC Upstate a deep understanding of our strategic objectives and distinct mission to serve the region,” said Provost Clif Flynn, who will retire this summer after 32 years of service at USC Upstate. “His work in California over the last 19 years prepares him well to meet the goals of academic excellence we have established here.”

At CSUB, Schecter worked closely with partners across campus, providing oversight for a number of corollary units within Academic Affairs, including the Office of Research and Grants and the Kegley Institute of Ethics. He coordinated and led all tenure-track hiring efforts on campus. During his years at Fresno State, he served as the department chair for political science and was the recipient of the Provost’s Award for Faculty Service, among other accolades.

A Florida native, Schecter holds a bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary studies and history from Florida State University, a master’s degree in political science from Florida State University, and a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Florida. He also holds an MBA from Fresno State. He has previously taught at the University of Nevada — Las Vegas. In the mid-1990s, he served for four years as a city councilman in his hometown of Ormond Beach, Florida.

“I am humbled and honored to be working with the incredible team at USC Upstate,” Schecter said. “This is



truly a campus on the move, with terrific faculty and staff showing a tremendous commitment to student success. I could not be more excited about this opportunity to serve.”

## New Programs Reflect Employer Needs

As part of its continuing efforts to meet the changing landscape of higher education and serve an evolving population of students, USC Upstate has developed new programs in direct response to industry need.

In the fall, USC Upstate launched a master’s degree in business analytics at the George Dean Johnson, Jr. College of Business and Economics — the first graduate program of its kind in South Carolina. Many of its students are already employed by companies who understand how data analysis can improve financial performance, strategic management and operational efficiency.

“Business analytics is an interdisciplinary field of study that

provides powerful tools and techniques that allow leaders to convert massive amounts of data into insights that can lead to more informed decisions,” says Uma Gupta, director of the program. “Our program, which was developed with key corporate partners, comes at a time when the demand for analytics professionals far outweighs the supply. And that translates into opportunity for our students.”

Similarly, USC Upstate recently partnered with seven regional school districts to create an online M.Ed. in applied learning and instruction that enables working teachers to pursue a master’s degree. To date, more than 325 Upstate teachers are enrolled in the program, with support from district leaders.

“We’re fortunate to have superintendents and school boards committed to investing in their teachers,” says Laura Reynolds, dean of USC Upstate’s School of Education, Human Performance, and Health. “The challenge for us was to design a rigorous program that assists districts in recruiting and retaining high-quality





Melissa Davis, left, an instructor in the math and computer science department, helped develop the curriculum and prepare the networking lab for the new cybersecurity program. With her is Jeannie Chapman, dean of the College of Science and Technology.

educators for Upstate classrooms, but also allows busy teachers to elevate their professional skills and begin to apply their learning immediately. By offering the program in an online and hybrid format, we have increased the number of graduate students we can serve.”

Also new is a program in community health, which Reynolds helped develop with input from regional health care systems, nonprofits, schools and foundations.

“Our community partners are asking us to provide opportunities for students to earn a community-focused, high-quality degree that prepares them to meet workforce needs,” she says. “The resulting program is the only bachelor’s degree in community health in the region.”

Reynolds says that the U.S. Bureau of Labor projects a 16% increase in demand for health care related positions over the next 10 years, and community health provides excellent opportunities for students to serve their community in nonclinical areas of care, such as public health, health care administration, and patient navigation.

“Our program will provide flexible education and training for students interested in the field of health while increasing the number of community health professionals for organizations in the region and state,” says Reynolds. “Just as importantly, it provides students the opportunity to make an

impact in their own communities, implementing programs and conducting outreach that promotes, maintains, and improves individual and community health.”

Jeannie Chapman, dean of the College of Science and Technology, did not have to go far to establish need for a new degree in cybersecurity. A recent Breach Level Index report found that during the first half of 2018 alone, more than 3 billion data records were compromised in data breaches

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*“These are innovative programs that serve our students in unique ways.”*

*- David Schecter*

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worldwide, which translates to just over 200 records per second.

Given that figure, demand for cybersecurity jobs in the U.S. has nearly doubled since 2013, according to a report by Burning Glass Technologies. Chapman discovered South Carolina, and the southeastern region, were no exceptions to that demand.

“CyberSeek reports more than 3,000 cybersecurity sector job openings in South Carolina alone, and when expanding out to the southeastern




Associate Professor Uma Gupta talks about the business analytics program during an alumni luncheon at Milliken & Co.

region, that there are as many as 49,000 jobs in the sector,” says Chapman, whose program was approved by the Commission on Higher Education earlier this year.

Despite that, she says, “The landscape for cybersecurity bachelor’s programs in the state is surprisingly sparse. While the speed at which technology is developing is partly to blame for a skills gap, it’s also due to an inadequate education pipeline.”

Graduates of USC Upstate’s program will be able to use cybersecurity tools and principles to protect the virtual and real resources of an organization; develop critical security strategies; work with local and federal law enforcement agencies in handling cybersecurity incidents; and utilize cybersecurity tools used by both criminal and ethical hackers, among other skills.

“Because so much commerce is conducted electronically and because so much data storage is remote, gone are the days when small, local companies were safe from attacks,” says Chapman. “Cybersecurity employees will soon be as commonplace as human resource managers, with even ‘mom and pop’ businesses requiring the services of these experts.”

“These are innovative programs that serve our students in unique ways,” says David Schecter, USC Upstate’s new provost. “Partnerships with corporate and community leaders help ensure that we are delivering the relevant curricula our graduates need to succeed in today’s increasingly competitive job market.” 



*The USC Upstate campus was quiet this spring when the university switched to online learning as part of a statewide response to COVID-19.*









Nick Gaffney:

## It's Always a Good Time to Talk About Inclusion

Nicholas Gaffney joined USC Upstate this spring as director of the Center for African American Studies. While USC Upstate has long offered a minor in African American Studies, a dedicated leader will enhance the Center's ability to offer its unique combination of scholarly work, cultural and social programming, internships and civic learning.

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### ***What drew you to USC Upstate?***

There were two things that drew me to USC Upstate. First and foremost, this position provides a unique opportunity to teach, engage in research and manage a program. But it is also a chance to grow the Center's presence in terms of campus and community engagement. I'm glad to be able to spend my time being focused on this type of work.

### ***Why is this work particularly significant at this time in history?***

I think now more than ever, this is our chance to tell our stories. We have the communication technologies that allow us to do this. We're becoming an increasingly diverse country and we have an opportunity to contribute to efforts that aim to embrace and value a sense of diversity and community. It's always been a good time to talk about diversity and inclusion, but as we move through the digital age, it's a perfect opportunity to envision and share what a diverse, inclusive, equitable society looks like.

### ***As students consider careers, are there fields that particularly value a minor in African American studies?***

One of the projects I hope to work on this fall is to identify the fields, specific careers, for which it would be especially valuable to have a background in African American studies. I'm thinking about careers for which the ability to study a certain demographic group makes sense. I'll seek out professionals working in public policy, corporate foundations and nonprofits, as well as in more traditional fields like education and public relations, to learn how demographic insight may add value to their work. Our curriculum gives students the tools to study a particular demographic group, and how to apply the same tools to learn another.

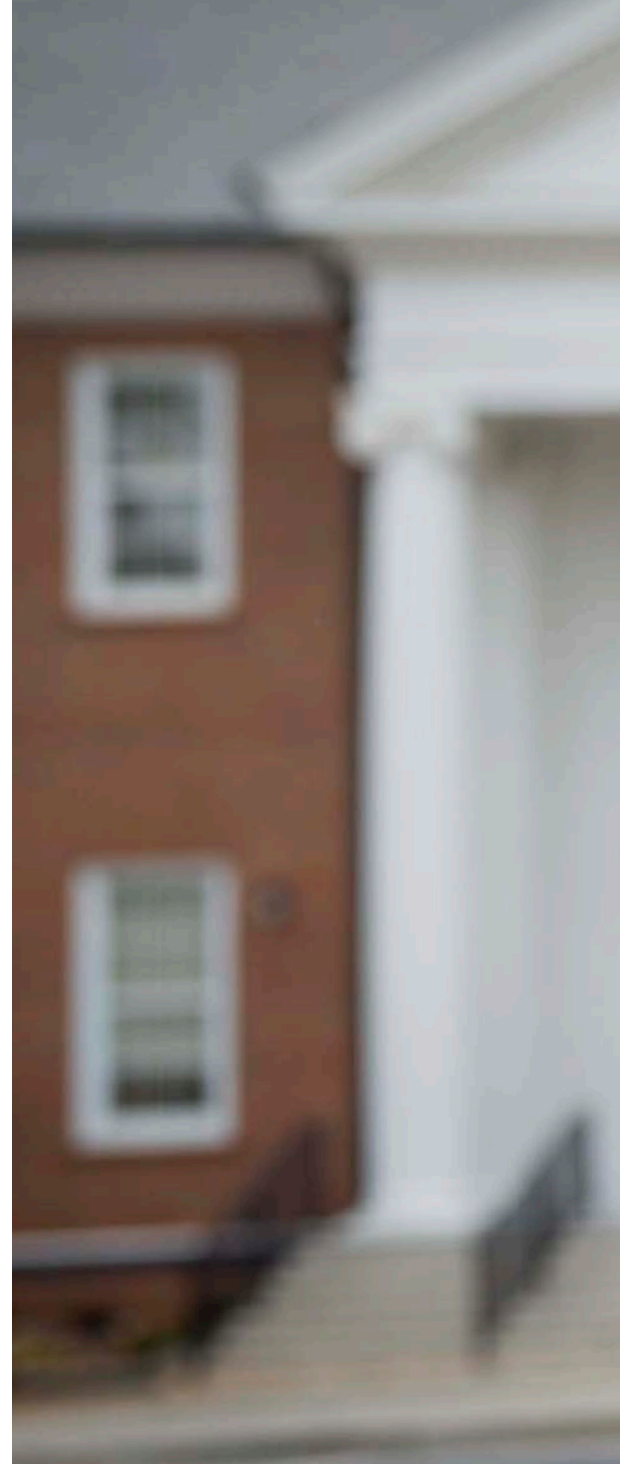
### ***Are younger generations more inclusive?***

As an historian, we wouldn't begin to ask questions about these generations until much later, but you do start to see a different trend. It's the idea of shared

culture, in general, that speaks to an ethos of inclusion that seems to be prewired into Gen Ys and Gen Zs.

### ***What are you enjoying most about Spartanburg?***

Well, that's the other really cool reason for wanting to be here! I have a strong family connection here. My dad was raised in Cowpens. As a kid who grew up in Atlanta, we would come up this way for every major holiday – Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas. I have a lot of fun memories playing with cousins in Cowpens. I look forward to settling into







Warren Carson, below, who taught African American literature and culture for more than 30 years at USC Upstate, praised Nick Gaffney's selection as director. "Nick Gaffney is well credentialed, with an excellent background in the broad field of African American Studies, and an experienced administrator," Carson said. "His relative youth and energy make him the ideal person to lead the Center in fulfilling its important role in the intellectual life of our campus."



the Upstate area with my wife Camille and our three children, Madeleine, Benjamin and Maeve.

---

Gaffney comes to USC Upstate from Northern Virginia Community College, where he served as associate dean of Social Sciences and Humanities, and assistant professor of history. He holds a Ph.D. in history from the University of Illinois and a master's in African American and African studies from The Ohio State University.

The author of numerous articles and

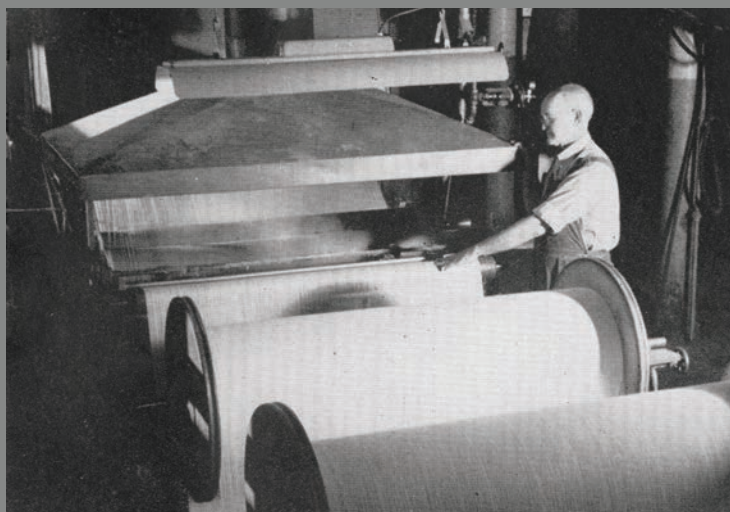
publications, Nick's research focuses on the intersections of African American cultural production and socio-political activism. His current book project, "Jazz Goes to Work: The Jazz Community and the Black Freedom Struggle From the New Negro Movement to the Black Arts Revolution, 1900-1980" explains why and how black activists called upon jazz and the jazz community to support their movements. Early in his academic career he served as a Pre-Doctoral Fellow at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History. 



# A Stitch in Time

How Spartanburg's Beaumont Mill could help teachers tell their community's history.

BY ELIZABETH ANDERSON



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*"There's no better way of interesting a student in history than tying it to their own life and experiences."*

*- Paul Grady*

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**B**usinessman Chris Crowley was a teenager when he worked in a mill in Spartanburg, but he vividly remembers the stifling heat of the opening room.

“There was no dust control, so it was a very hot, dusty environment that I worked in,” Crowley recalls in an oral history he provided for USC Upstate. “The ceiling in this room was probably eight feet at the most, with a tin roof. So no air conditioning or any kind of ventilation, really, except for just windows with attic fans on them.”

Crowley’s job was to take cotton waste in his hands and toss it into an opening machine. “It was incredibly hot, so you’d sweat and the dust would stick to you, and you’d sort of look like a chia pet when you got through with a shift,” he says.

The stories told by Crowley and others with ties to Beaumont Mill form the basis of a teaching project proposed by a group of USC Upstate professors and staff that would help middle and high school educators explore the history of their own communities.

Four faculty members – Paul Grady and Andy Myers in history, Warren Bareiss in communications and Rebecca Mueller in education – and archivist Ann Merryman have collaborated on a National Endowment for the Humanities grant application that would bring secondary school teachers from across the country to campus over the summer to learn how to teach community history. Using Beaumont Mill as a guide, Upstate faculty would provide teachers with research skills and techniques they could use with their students.

“There’s no better way of interesting a student in history than tying it to their own life and their own experiences,” explains Grady.

## Textile town

The current NEH application, which was submitted in February, is actually the second iteration of one proposed last year. While the group credits Grady for spearheading the effort to apply for a “Landmarks in American History and Culture” grant, he notes it was Myers who suggested they focus on Beaumont Mill.

“It has a complete mill village around it which has been preserved as a historic neighborhood; a large portion of the building itself is still standing; and the neighborhood association was really enthusiastic about helping us, which is a plus,” Myers explains.

While the group embraced the idea, they knew the competition was likely to be stiff. Past grant winners included projects focused on high-profile places or events, such as Monticello, the American Revolution and Hoover Dam.

“Andy actually had a joke: ‘I think you have to have a World Heritage site to win one of these things,’ and all we had was a textile mill!” Grady says. “So that was a real concern, how do we make a textile mill cool.”

The answer, he says, was marshaling all the resources they had – old mill newspapers, the oral histories, photos, artifacts, the mill building itself – as the basis for teaching community-based history.

“The grant is as much about the skills we’re trying to give to these educators so they can then take those back into their own communities and do their own community histories — and help their students do the same,” Grady says.

While the initial grant didn’t succeed, the constructive feedback and interest the group received encouraged them to try again this year, this time with a much stronger focus and plan.





## Homespun history

Under the proposal, a week-long workshop would be held twice during the summer, each with a different group of 36 teachers from across the country. The teachers would visit several local textile landmarks, learn how to use archival collections and how to conduct oral histories, and create teaching blueprints using the inquiry-based model they would learn.

For Mueller, who specializes in social studies education, this approach is particularly exciting, because it will help teachers understand how local history can be a useful way to explore larger topics.

“Sometimes, because every teacher feels the pressure to cover lots of information, it’s easy to think, ‘We can’t focus on that story because we have all this other stuff we need to talk about,’” she says. “What I’m really hopeful this grant does is illustrate how you can dig into your community’s history, not instead of the other content that’s out there, but as a really interesting way to get into these bigger themes and issues.”

Mueller says she herself has learned a lot through the application process, since she knew little about the area’s textile history before getting involved. Hearing the oral histories that have been done so far have raised several topics to explore, she says, particularly about the decline of the textile industry.

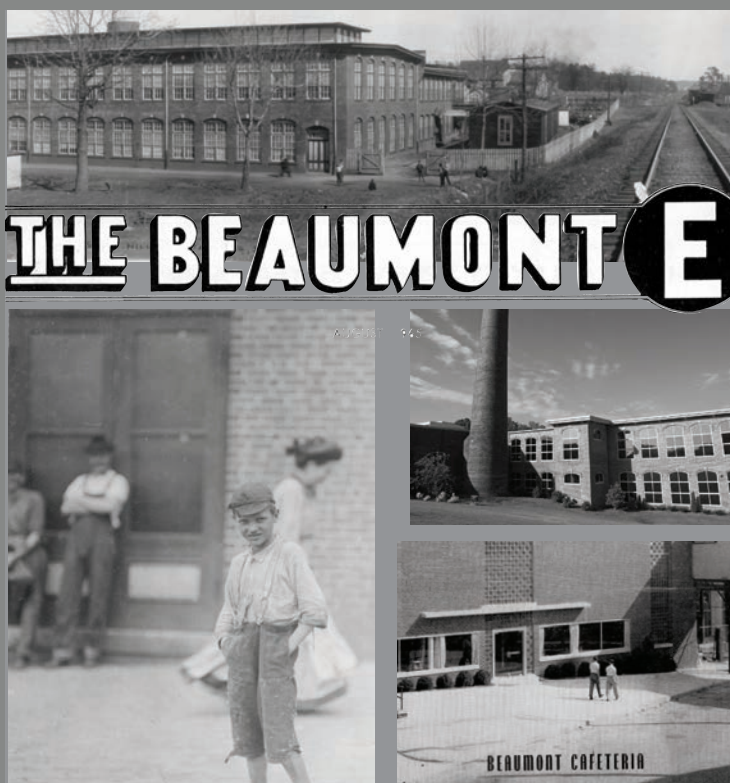
“One thing that’s interesting about this story is this idea of transformation,” she explains. “What does a community do when their identity is really shaken, and how do you hold onto that, because that’s what made this place.”

## New threads to follow

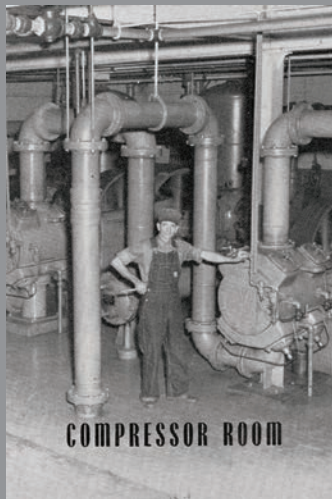
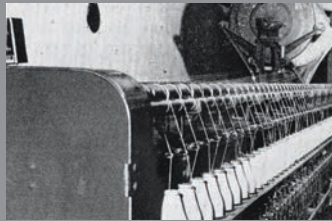
While Grady feels good about the grant application, both he and Myers



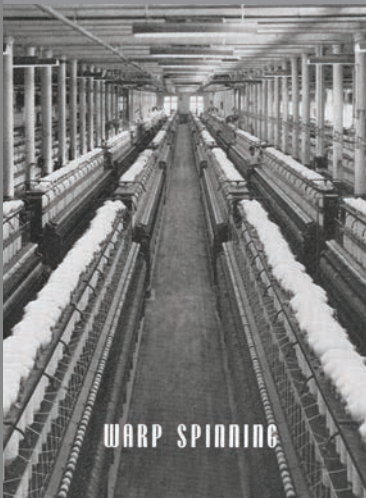
*“The group has already laid the groundwork for preserving an important part of the Upstate’s history.” - Andy Myers*







COMPRESSOR ROOM



WARP SPINNING



agree there are some challenges to getting a full picture of the mill's history. Many of those who worked in the mill during its heyday in the 1940s and '50s are no longer alive or in the area, they note. Those who were working at the mill when it closed in 1997 moved away to find new jobs.

And while Beaumont Village has an active neighborhood association, many homes that once belonged to former mill workers are now either in the hands of their children or of investors who bought up the property and rented it out.

Myers says one way to address these challenges is to focus on the latter years of the mill, from the '60s up until its closing. There are several sources in town who have helped put those decades into perspective, including Crowley, a former textile executive who grew up in the business; Walter Montgomery, whose father bought Beaumont Mill in 1941; and Spartanburg businessman Jimmy Gibbs, who bought defunct mills such as Beaumont and their old machinery.

These sources, Myers says, are shedding light on a part of the textiles story that has not been explored as deeply as the boom years have. "Why did the industry decline? Why did all these mills go out of business? I think that's really significant, not only for this region, but for the country," Myers says.

Bareiss, who helped with the oral histories, sees many of the same recurring themes as Myers in the firsthand accounts, and says helping teachers learn how to identify those is important for getting a full understanding of a place.

"The patterns I heard were about pride of working there, about the ability to participate in a community and live in a community where everybody knew everybody else, and there was some comfort in that," he says.





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*“Learning doesn’t just take place in a classroom —  
the whole purpose of learning is to then do things.”*

*- Rebecca Mueller*

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## History in the Making

A central component of the workshops that would be offered as part of the National Endowment for the Humanities grant is helping teachers develop an inquiry-based model for teaching community history.

The idea, explains Rebecca Mueller, assistant professor of social studies education, is to take the questions students have about where they live, help them find the information to answer those questions, and then turn that information into action.

“So learning doesn’t just take place in a classroom — the whole purpose of learning is to then do things,” she says.

Those things don’t have to be big, Mueller says — it might be something simple, such as middle and high school students creating informational materials about their community for younger students. Or students might work with their local libraries and museums on collecting oral histories and items for preservation.

Action doesn’t have to be limited to preserving the past, either, Mueller

says. “If we think about Beaumont Mill and the village, you can imagine families and children who are living there now thinking about what it was and what they want that community to be,” she says. “So it can be about taking action on how to make the community even better today.”

One question Mueller says teachers need to be prepared to answer is “why are we doing this?” The seminars are a way to help teachers think about how they can make history relevant to their students and show them the value in the information and skills they’re learning.

“Adolescents are curious,” she says. “We think only 5-year-olds ask questions, but teenagers are asking a lot of questions as well. They’re trying to understand their world and figure out their place in it.

“Place-based history is a way to connect with that energy that’s there and help students see themselves as citizens now, rather than citizens in the future.”

Several activities are planned during the workshops. They include:

- A walking tour of Beaumont Village and Mill, including a visit to the mill building, some residents’ homes and neighborhood churches;
- A bus tour of selected sites in Spartanburg related to textile history, such as the Whitney community, Lawson’s Fork Creek and Converse Mill;
- Archival research using the Library of Congress online collection of child labor photographs by Lewis Hine from the early 1900s;
- A presentation on Thomas Bomar, an African-American brick mason and business owner whose company built Beaumont and other local mills;
- A look at the role of women at Beaumont Mill during World War II.



*“The ability to participate in a community and live in a community where everybody knew everybody else — there was some comfort in that.” - Warren Bareiss*



“I came in with the presumption that mills were always oppressive places,” he adds. “Now I’m seeing them in a much more nuanced way.”

### **From the ground up**

Even without a lot of mill worker testimonials to draw from, the group has had some success in collecting primary source materials, in particular the Beaumont E newsletter. Started in 1942 to keep workers fighting in World War II connected with their community, the Beaumont E offers a glimpse of mill life during the war years and beyond, Merryman says.

“This collection that we’re starting to build didn’t exist before we actually got into this grant,” she says.

When the group first met with the Beaumont Village Association to gauge their interest in the grant project, they were stunned when community members showed up bearing a trove of historical material, Merryman says. At the time, she wasn’t in a position to take any of it for preservation, but she did accept a collection of the Beaumont E from a resident.

Some quick research revealed there were few copies of the Beaumont E in any South Carolina library. There were a handful at the Spartanburg public library, Merryman says, and a couple other copies at the South Caroliniana Library in Columbia, and all were from the war years.

The 30 or so copies she had received overlapped a little with that time period, but most were from the 1950s and ‘60s, she says, and looked more like newsletters, rather than the newspaper format of the ‘40s.

The collection grew further when Jay Adams, whose father was mill

superintendent when Beaumont converted exclusively to wartime production in 1941, lent Merryman his issues from 1942-45 so she could scan them. Another resident donated some copies she had. Merryman believes USC Upstate now has the largest extant collection of the Beaumont E anywhere in the state.

Like Mueller, Merryman says she didn’t know much about textile history when she first became involved with the grant, so reading the Beaumont E has been a fascinating learning experience.

“There was such a pride of production, and that comes through in all these newspapers – how proud they were of the quantity of the material they were making and shipping overseas, how proud they were that their safety record was so good,” she says.

Indeed, the Beaumont E took its name from the Army-Navy production award the mill received four times during the war years, a recognition of its role as the largest producer of the duck canvas used to make military tents and equipment.

The newspaper also reprinted letters it received from those who were serving, many expressing appreciation for getting news from back home and applauding the mill’s war efforts.


“While learning to fly here, I have seen many uses of the cloth that you are turning out,” reads one. “When and if I graduate and go into combat, your cloth will be one of the main things that will help to keep me alive.”

The last issue of the E that Merryman has is from 1969, but she doesn’t know if there are others that exist from subsequent years. It’s another question she hopes to answer as the project continues.

### **Interwoven goals**

The group expects to hear back from the NEH sometime in August, but in the meantime, a grant Mueller received from the University of South Carolina will be used this summer to offer a pilot version of the NEH workshops with six teachers from local schools. The limited three-day format will help the Upstate group get feedback on the activities and teaching model they’ve proposed to the NEH.

Both Myers and Grady say regardless of what happens with the grant, the group has already laid the groundwork for preserving an important part of the Upstate’s history. “The archival preservation is a legacy that will last forever,” Grady says.

And if the grant does get approved, he hopes the teachers who take part in the program – be they from a fishing village in New England or a mining town in West Virginia or farmlands in the Central Valley of California – will return home with the tools to tell their own community’s story. 

Do you have an item related to the history of Beaumont Mill, Beaumont Mill Village, or the textile industry in South Carolina that you would like preserved in the USC Upstate Archives? If so, we would like to connect with you! Please contact university archivist Ann Merryman at [amerryman@uscupstate.edu](mailto:amerryman@uscupstate.edu) or call 864-503-5275.



# Threading the Needle

*Spartanburg textile companies find ways to adapt and thrive in a global economy.*

BY TREVOR ANDERSON

**T**extile manufacturing was Spartanburg County's lifeblood for more than a century.

When the industry collapsed in the late 1980s and early '90s, mills went dark, thousands were left jobless and mill villages crumbled as residents moved away in search of work. The local economy was left on life support.

"It evaporated so quickly," says Spartanburg County Councilman David Britt. "We lost 25,000 jobs. An entire way of life that generations had depended on."

Then in 1994, German automaker BMW opened its first production plant outside of Europe on a 1,100-acre site near Greer, giving the community the boost it so badly needed.

Since BMW's arrival, the county has become an economic force to be reckoned with, attracting billions of dollars of investment from international and domestic manufacturers and powering startups not only in the automotive sector, but across a range of industries.

Amid that success, the textile industry has quietly been making a comeback.

"BMW changed us," Britt says. "Our textile industry didn't go away, but it did have to reinvent itself. Our companies turned to innovation and adapted. Many of them found a niche. There is a tremendous amount of

opportunity for us to continue to grow in textiles — the industry that made us."

In a landscape that was once dominated by cotton-based textiles, an impressive diversity of highly-engineered products has emerged.


High-end pool covers, performance fibers, mission-critical cleaning wipes and supplies, flame-retardant yarns, camouflage apparel, automotive interior fabrics and premium carbon fiber for auto and aerospace applications are just a few of the items that local companies are producing for the global market.

"It's kind of like hockey," says Jansen Tidmore, executive vice president of the Spartanburg Economic Futures Group. "You don't go where the puck is. You go where it's going to be. We have a number of companies that could be the poster children for the textile industry's resurgence. They were the ones that really understood what was happening, shifted gears and then built huge product lines."

Milliken & Co., Inman Mills and Tietex are some of the names from Spartanburg's textile past that have not only survived, but thrived by focusing on innovation and diversification and finding ways to creatively solve problems for customers.





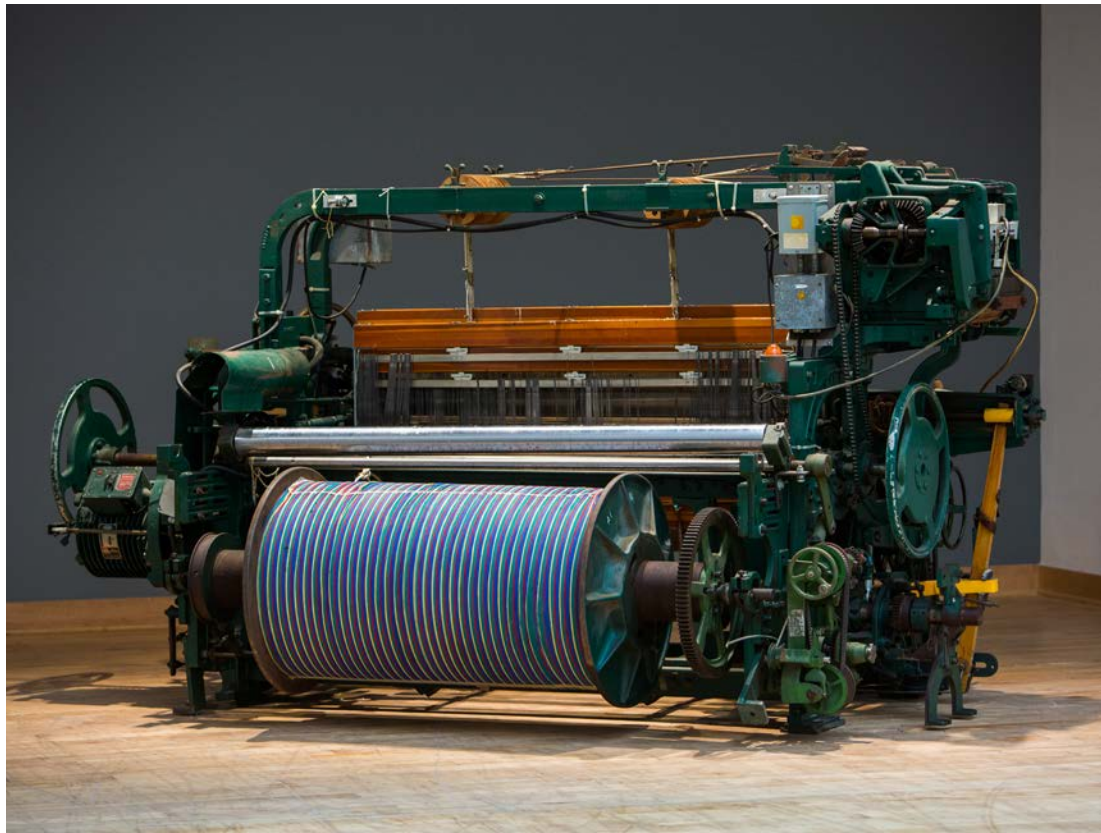


*"Our textile industry didn't go away, but it did  
have to reinvent itself." - David Britt*





Jack McBride, co-founder and CEO of Contec Inc.



A loom from the former Beaumont Mill is part of the historic display in the renovated building.

As of 2018, Milliken was the largest privately held company in South Carolina, according to Grant Thornton LLP. The company is the Upstate's third-largest manufacturing employer behind BMW and Michelin North America, according to Upstate Alliance SC.

Today, the former textile giant bills itself as "a global diversified manufacturer with more than a century and a half of textile expertise." The company is known the world over for its specialty fibers, chemicals, floor coverings and commitment to quality.

In response to the global COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, Milliken announced it would increase domestic production of its breakthrough BioSmart fabric, which is used to provide anti-microbial protection in medical products like scrubs, lab coats and privacy curtains.

"The numbers show that textiles is still a declining industry overall, but for Spartanburg, it's very strong and growing," Tidmore says.

The perseverance of some of the county's textile mainstays, coupled with economic growth during the past

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*"Because we've been successful, we have companies who come to us with their latest and greatest inventions."*

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- Jack McBride

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two decades, have given rise to or attracted several unique manufacturers, such as Contec Inc., Meyco Products Inc., Japan-based Toray, TrueTimber and others.

Contec was founded in the late 1980s by two former Milliken employees, Jack McBride and Jim Smith.

The company originally started as a distributor of contamination control technology, but in the mid-1990s, it got into manufacturing. Today, Contec is a global leader in the production of contamination control products, including wipes, mops and other solutions, for critical cleaning and

manufacturing environments.

"Oddly enough, our first big home run was a pre-saturated wipe used in automotive paint shops," says McBride, Contec's CEO. "We met a guy at a Cubs game who serviced Toledo Assembly, where Chrysler was making the Jeep. We sent him a sample of our original pre-saturated wipes. They needed it bigger, quarter-folded, and all that."

"So I called the contract manufacturer," he adds. "They couldn't do it. Nobody could do it. We had to bring in fabric, get it quarter-folded by another friend. We brought in rolls of film and heat-sealed it on three sides. We cut a hole for a peel-and-reseal label, and put the label on top."

McBride says it took two months for the company to make a few cases for their waiting customer. It wasn't long before Contec received a second order from that customer for 100 cases per week.

"That's when we went from being not a manufacturer to being a manufacturer," McBride says. "We got up to capacity to supply that plant. One day, the vice president of Chrysler



was walking around the plant and he saw some employees using Contec wipes. They told him it reduces VOCs and was improving their first-time yields by 2 to 3 percent, a cost savings of about \$3 million per year. And he said, ‘Well, why aren’t we doing this in every plant?’”

“So the customer called me and said, ‘We can’t run out! Whatever it takes, we can’t run out,’” McBride adds. “And that’s still one of our core values: whatever it takes.”

McBride explains that Contec has remained flexible by staying diversified. The company’s workforce is also comprised of many employees with a background in textiles.

“We bring that expertise to the table and look at how we can apply it,” he says. “Because we’ve been successful, we have companies who come to us with their latest and greatest inventions. We’re able to take a look at how those products apply to our customer base. Having a textile background really helps. We speak our customers’ language. And we’re very good about sharing our results.”

“As we move from the cleanroom market into selling more products to hospitals, we’re seeing continued growth and success,” McBride adds. “Now we have customers who look to us when they have a need. We look at our converting capabilities and we come up with a product that meets the need.”

There are plenty of reasons why local leaders are bullish about Spartanburg’s future in textiles.

For example, Japanese carbon fiber maker Toray made one of the largest investments in South Carolina’s history when it committed more than \$1 billion to build a production plant off Highway 290 near Duncan.

The S.C. Ports Authority’s Inland Port in Spartanburg County near Greer has provided multiple industries, including textiles, with a means to efficiently export more of their products to waiting customers across the globe.

But challenges remain. One of them is and will continue to be competition for qualified employees.

That’s one area where USC Upstate has an important role to play.

“The textile industry has reshaped itself,” McBride says. “The industries that have a very large labor component will probably stay overseas. The manufacturing that will come back to the U.S. is likely to have a more automated focus. We need people with advanced degrees—operators who can communicate. In general, the requirement for expertise and all levels will be greater and those jobs will be paid a higher wage.”

Currently, USC Upstate offers a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering technology management (ETM) and a Bachelor of Applied Science in advanced manufacturing management (AMM). These two degree programs are aimed at providing local manufacturers with the talent they need and enabling area residents to pursue greater opportunities in manufacturing.

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*“What I continually hear from leaders is that they need people with problem-solving skills,” Ellis says. “The ability to think and apply what you’re learning in the classroom — that’s what we do.”*

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#### Top Textile Employers in Spartanburg County

Milliken & Co.....	3,957
Inman Mills.....	1,000
Tietex.....	600
Contec Inc.....	600
Toray.....	500
Leigh Fibers.....	200
Sage Automotive Interiors.....	200

Source: Spartanburg County Economic Futures Group (as of 2019)

The administrative offices for Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System occupy the former Beaumont Mill. The Southern Conference is also a tenant in the building.





Several mills, including Drayton, pictured here, and Mayfair, at right, have been renovated for use as artist studios, retail, or luxury lofts, attracting tenants who are drawn to their original hardwood floorings, vaulted ceilings and expansive windows.







Mayfair Art Studios photos courtesy of Chapman Cultural Center


“The textile industry today is not that different from any other high-tech industry,” says Tim Ellis, a senior instructor of ETM and AMM at USC Upstate. “The plants are clean and highly automated. The type of employee has changed from the ‘hand’ to the highly skilled technician who can keep the sophisticated equipment running.”

Ellis worked in textiles for two decades before transitioning to education in 2009.

“I’ve been able to infuse what I learned in my 20-year textile career in my classroom teaching,” he says.

“We currently have eight full-time

and adjunct professors teaching in both programs who bring a wealth of industrial experience into their academic training.

“What I continually hear from leaders is that they need people with problem-solving skills,” Ellis adds. “The ability to think and apply what you’re learning in the classroom — that’s what we do.” 



# History Is the Greatest Teacher

BY TREVOR ANDERSON

From her corner office on the top floor of the campus library, Ann Merryman quietly cultivates a vision that began when she arrived at USC Upstate in 2014.

As the university's coordinator of Archives and Special Collections, Merryman oversees the documentation, organization and preservation of records that have "enduring value" to USC Upstate and the surrounding 10-county region. And, if that doesn't sound daunting enough, she has worked diligently to make those records accessible and usable by future generations.

The structure Merryman has put into place is vital to the university's efforts to develop its own unique identity and sense of place, as well as to foster relationships and support education throughout the Upstate.

"We're nearing our 53rd anniversary as a university," Merryman says. "There really wasn't an archivist here before I arrived. When I walked into this position, we had four rooms of stuff. No one really knew the full scope of what we actually had. Six years later, the work continues."

Currently, Archives and Special Collections occupies six rooms on the library's second floor. While the collections have continued to grow, Merryman has succeeded in taking the "stuff" and neatly organizing it into two separate categories: University Archives and Archives of the Upstate.

University Archives is a repository for records that document the history of USC Upstate — its programs, services and people.

Items range from old yearbooks and

academic catalogs to faculty manuals and handbooks. There are all of the Faculty Senate meeting minutes dating back to the late 1960s; a near complete run of the student newspaper *The Carolinian*; thousands of old photos, slides and negatives; and miscellaneous items.

"All of these collections are things the university generates," Merryman says.

Archives of the Upstate focuses on anything that documents the history of the region.

For example, Merryman and archives assistant Michael Sanders are providing support to a group of faculty members who have applied for a National Endowment for the Humanities grant.

The grant would fund workshops that would teach middle and high school

educators how to tap into a variety of resources, including archives, to teach the history of their communities.

The archive also features a journal from 1878 donated by the Spartanburg County Medical Society that lists all the physicians in the community at that time, and a music book of shape notes that dates back to the 1840s.

There are more than 260 volumes in the Thomas Moore Craig Collection of Southern History and Literature. It also includes a silver tea set owned by the late Andrew Charles Moore (1866-1928) and his wife, Vivian Mary Moore. Andrew Moore was acting president of the University of South Carolina from 1908-1909, and according to family history, the tea set was used to serve Dr. Charles W. Elliot, president of Harvard University,







USC Upstate archivist Ann Merryman and archives assistant Michael Sanders review a collection of old newsletters from Beaumont Mill that were donated to the library.

when he spoke at USC in 1909.

"We just finished a high-level inventory of everything we have," Merryman says. "I feel like we're really starting to get a handle on it and we are continuing to grow."

Access to the materials and collections is currently by appointment only. Anyone wishing to visit should email or call in advance to schedule a time. None of the materials can be checked out from the library.

But Merryman and Sanders are continuing to identify specific collections that could be digitized so the public could access them online.

"There are certain types of collections that lend themselves very well to digitization, whether it's because they are visually interesting

and tell a great story, have high research value, or are so fragile and at-risk that digitization is the only feasible way for researchers to use the collections," she says.

That work has enabled Merryman to also build new digital collections, such as the LGBTQ Upstate Oral History Collection and the Center for Women's and Gender Studies 20th Anniversary Poster Collection.

Several other projects are in the works, including oral histories of Holocaust survivors in the Upstate, a collection of Holocaust documents from a private collector, and an oral history of Ingo Sachtler, a former prisoner in East Germany who visited USC Upstate this past fall as part of activities commemorating the 30th


anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

"My hope is that we continue to build trust with the community," Merryman says. "We want them to come to us and entrust us with their history."

"Archivists must be very collaborative," she adds. "That's our mindset. In my efforts to grow this archive, I've received support from many colleagues across the state. We want to make sure that we complement other collections that are out there. We're trying to be supportive of the community's history in general."

Merryman is a native of Charleston, Illinois. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in business and economics from Benedictine University and a Master of Library and Information Studies from the University of South Carolina.

In addition to her archive duties, Merryman is a public services librarian. She teaches information literacy sessions to students, supports and collaborates with history and political science faculty, and provides research and reference support to students, faculty and the community.

"The work that Ann is doing is fundamental to the history of this university," says Frieda Davison, dean of the library. "As our inaugural archivist, she is establishing the policies, processes and standards for decades to come. Largely because of her, we are receiving exciting donations and preserving documents from not only the university's past, but from the Upstate area." 

For more information, please visit:  
[uscupstate.libguides.com/archives](http://uscupstate.libguides.com/archives).



# In the Line of Fire

*Could a drone swarm be the next big weapon in the battle against destructive wildfires?*

BY ELIZABETH ANDERSON

Professor Ron Fulbright was watching the news one night when an all-too-familiar scene flashed across the screen.

Another destructive fire was ravaging Southern California, destroying acres of trees and threatening homes, as firefighters fought to gain the upper hand. Camera footage showed a giant plane spreading a load of water over the leaping flames.

Fulbright recalls thinking: “So where’s the next plane? Why don’t they have a lot of these planes?” And could there be a better option?

Fulbright believes there is, and that he has created it: a massive autonomous drone delivery swarm (MADDS) that can go where planes can’t, at a fraction of the cost and capable of carrying 1,000 times more water or fire retardant than the largest plane currently in use.

As climate change causes fires to increase in frequency and intensity, straining human and financial resources, the cost of fighting fires is expected to consume an ever greater share of fire departments’ budgets, according to the U.S. Forest Service. Should Fulbright’s drone swarm, on which he has a patent

pending, be developed, it could be a cheaper and more effective tool for fire agencies, he says.

“I want these things to cost less than \$10,000 apiece,” Fulbright says. “You could buy 10,000 at \$5,000 apiece, that’s \$15 million. That’s a lot of money to me, but (fire agencies) spend hundreds of millions of dollars to fight these fires every time they happen and they cause billions of dollars of damage.”

Fulbright began his research by tackling what he saw as the main problems to be solved. Planes and helicopters are costly to buy and operate, and require pilots. The biggest plane in use, a 747, can drop up to 20,000 gallons of water or fire retardant, but can’t get into narrow areas such as canyons, and costs \$16,500 per flight-hour, according to Cal Fire.

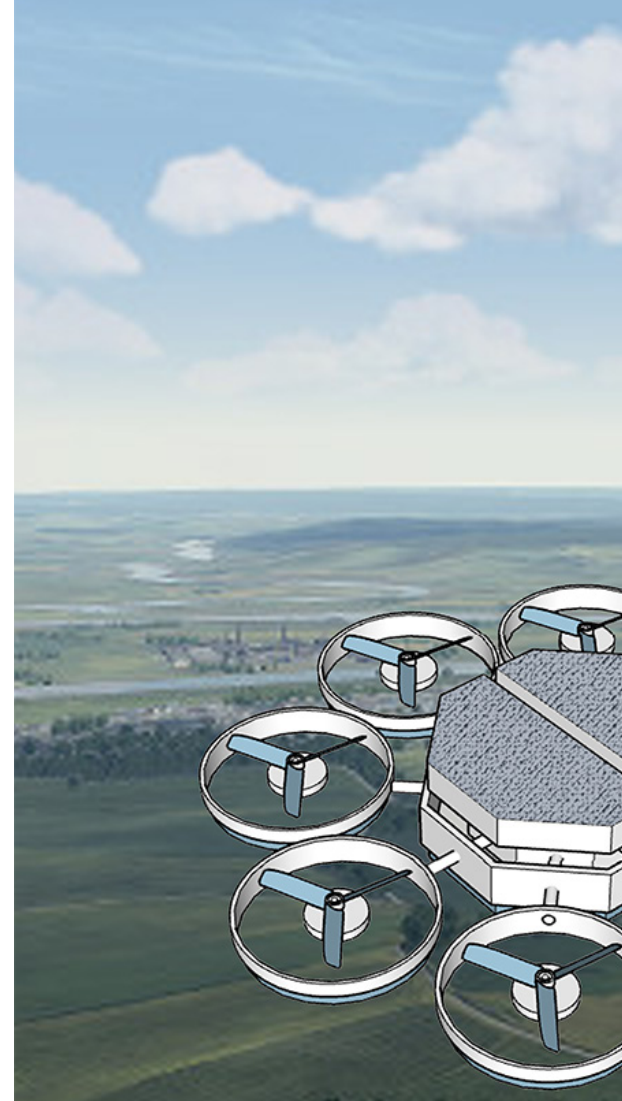
While drones seemed an obvious way to address these problems, Fulbright noted potential issues with them as well. Commercially available drones have limited lifting capacity, he explains, and a short battery life – 15 to 30 minutes on average. They also require someone to fly them, and aren’t very rugged.

“If you flew this into a wildfire situation, it wouldn’t last long,” Fulbright says. “They’re cheap, only a few hundred dollars.”

Using an innovation methodology known as I-TRIZ, Fulbright proceeded to find a solution to each issue. I-TRIZ uses concepts that people have developed over decades to solve various problems and applies them to new challenges, Fulbright explains.

For lift capacity, Fulbright wanted each drone to be able to carry at least 100 gallons of water. That equates to 834 pounds, he says, and while there are existing drones that can lift hundreds of pounds, they’re expensive – \$300,000 to \$400,000 each. “That’s still a lot more than we want,” he says.

The solution Fulbright came up with



was eight rotors, about 2 feet across, arranged in a circle around the center, each one capable of being taken out and replaced as needed should damage occur. “The heavy lift technology is there, so we don’t have to invent too much new technology,” Fulbright says.

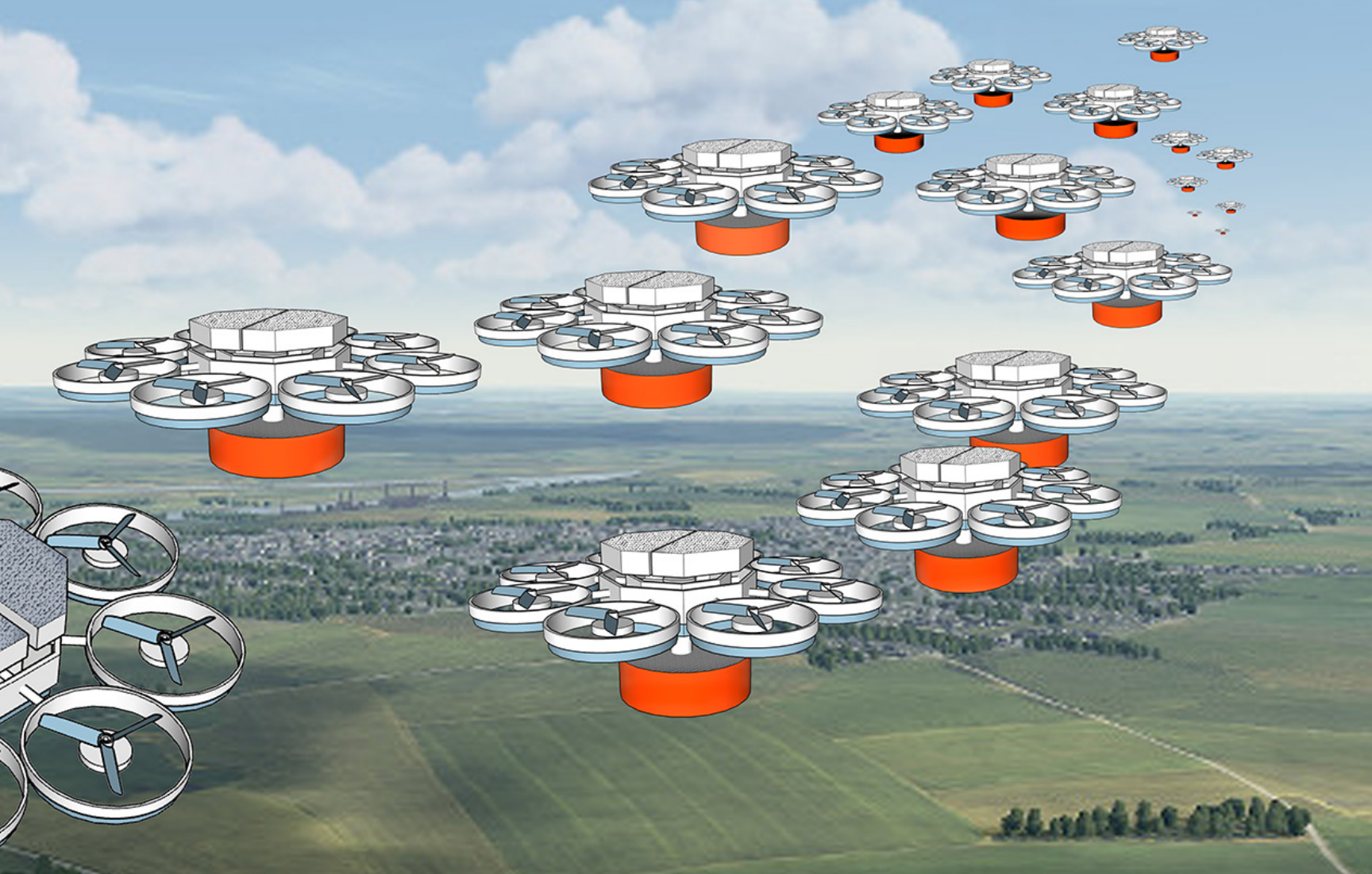
Next was ensuring the drones could be autonomous – they needed to operate as a large group of about 1,200 that didn’t need individual human operators for each one. Fulbright compares it to a bird murmuration, a swarm in the sky that can reshape itself into many different configurations as it goes.

“That’s nice, because a fire doesn’t burn in a nice straight line,” he says. “A swarm can shape itself to follow a contour or a line, and drop water only on the leading edge of the fire.”

As with the rotors, the technology to do this is out there, Fulbright says. The software would require further development, but “it’s within the imagination,” he says. Operators could then control the swarm remotely, moving







it to concentrate on a specific area or spreading it out over several different areas, something planes can't do.

Another major problem was making the drones self-servicing. In an emergency situation, time is of the essence, especially given the limited battery life of drones – which would be further reduced from the added water weight they'd be carrying, Fulbright says. Each drone would need to have fresh batteries available that could be quickly swapped in for the spent ones so it could get back out to pick up more water.

"You don't want thousands of these coming back and sitting there waiting for somebody to fill it up with water and charge the battery," he says.

While batteries in current drones are contained within a compartment that needs to be opened, in Fulbright's design the batteries are external and stacked on top. The drone could fly into a recharge station, detach from one spent battery, slide over and pick up a fresh one, then repeat the process

with the second battery. The whole process could be completed in a minute or two, Fulbright says, without any human involvement.

"It could keep itself running until something breaks," he says. "And things will break, they will get damaged, but they won't cost hundreds of millions of dollars. They're disposable, expendable."

And, Fulbright says, battery technology is improving every day. The drones in his swarm are about 8 feet across, with the battery accounting for the bulk of that. But Fulbright believes more efficient batteries that can last for an hour or more are coming, along with other types of power packs, and his design could be adapted for those new technologies.


The adaptations also extend to the rotors, which Fulbright purposefully designed to be modular – for situations where eight rotors aren't needed, the extras could be removed, or wings could be put in instead of rotors.

And it's not just fire agencies that could benefit from the swarm's

capabilities, Fulbright notes. Disaster response agencies that can't immediately get into areas hit by hurricanes, earthquakes, or floods could send the swarm in with canned food, bottled water, blankets or any other needed supply.

As exciting as the possibilities are, the idea only exists on paper right now. Fulbright says it will take a lot of research and development and investment money to make the project a reality – just building a prototype would likely cost a couple million dollars, he says. He has presented the concept at a Department of Defense tech innovation conference, where he received an enthusiastic response, and hopes the federal government or even the state might take an interest and provide some seed money.

And if they do, Fulbright will be ready with the pitch.

"The tagline I came up with is, anytime you have to take a million of something somewhere, you need MADDs," he says. 





Dean Shirleatha Lee, Frances Welch of the College of Charleston, and Dr. Susan Hilsman of Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System listen as Toshua Kennedy, director of RN-BSN and graduate programs, explains how the sim lab works. The tour also included a visit to the "delivery room," below right.

## Colleges Come Together on New Dual Degree Program

Students interested in following a pre-med track but with a focus on nursing now have a new option available.

Beginning this fall, biology students at the College of Charleston who want to go into nursing will be able to get a joint degree with USC Upstate's Mary Black School of Nursing. Students will take their first three years of coursework at the College of Charleston, then transition to the nursing school to complete the last two years of the program.

"A lot of the students who go to the College of Charleston for their biology degree are from the Upstate area, so this is an opportunity for some of them to return home to finish their degrees," says Shirleatha Lee, dean of the Mary Black School of Nursing.

Students will earn a biology degree from the College of Charleston after four years, and a Bachelor of Science

in nursing from USC Upstate after five. Lee says the program will be rigorous due to the compressed course load, but it will also save students the added expense a second degree would ordinarily bring.

"We were able to find a lot of common courses that count as credit for both degrees so we can decrease the time as much as possible," Lee says.

Upstate will guarantee six seats in the nursing program to College of Charleston students who meet the admission requirements.

"We are very excited about this partnership with USC Upstate because it provides a pathway for our incoming CofC freshman to earn their biology degree and be guaranteed acceptance into a top nursing school," says Sebastian van Delden, interim dean of the School of Sciences and Mathematics at the College of Charleston.

The dual degree has other advantages, too, he notes. "If students want to go on to get a master's in nursing, or public health, this gives them a broad-based foundation to pursue graduate-level work later on."

Karen Eippert, health professions advisor at the College of Charleston, says the program might appeal to someone who started college with a pre-med focus but who became drawn to nursing after learning about the variety of roles nurses have in health care. With three hospitals within blocks of the college's campus, there will be many opportunities for students in the joint degree program to learn firsthand about the areas of care that interest them, she says.

Eippert will be one of two advisors guiding the students in the first three years of their program. Students will



also be assigned a faculty advisor in the biology department who will monitor their progress until they make the transition to USC Upstate, where they will receive an advisor in the nursing school.

“Knowing early on as freshmen or sophomores that if they meet the criteria that we’ve set out, they will be nurses – and not only will they be nurses, they’ll have a four-year degree – is just wonderful,” Eippert said.

The program is also an example of creative collaboration on a critical problem: a shortage of skilled nurses both here and statewide, Lee says.

According to a recent study by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, South Carolina is one of four states in the nation facing a nursing shortage expected to exceed 10,000 positions by 2030.

“I’ve spoken to nearly a dozen chief nursing officers at hospitals across the region,” she says. “The message they share is the same: The nursing shortage is real, it is pervasive, and if left unaddressed, it will negatively impact the health of the state in the next decade.”

Frances Welch, interim provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs at the College of Charleston, agrees. “More nurses are needed in the workforce, and we can help fill that need by recommending these biology and nursing degree paths to our students.”

Lee adds that collaboration benefits everyone. “One of our top goals in the school of nursing is student success,” she says. “But to me, student success extends beyond USC Upstate. If you have students at College of Charleston who can use our program in order to help them be successful, we want to be a part of that.”



Dr. Lynette Gibson, left, helped set up an RN-BSN program with Bermuda College and the first student to enroll was Carolann Tacklyn, center. At right is Kathy-Ann Swan, director of nursing and allied health at Bermuda College.

## Nursing a Friendship

When Lynette Gibson, an associate dean and director of research at the Mary Black School of Nursing, traveled to Bermuda a few years ago to visit family, she didn’t anticipate that she’d return home with an opportunity to create an RN-BSN program for Bermuda College. Even more unexpected was an opportunity to recruit an old friend into the program.

“I met with Kathy-Ann Swan, director of nursing at Bermuda College, and together, we created an online RN-BSN program that allows students to study virtually while earning an advanced degree,” says Gibson. “Our program expands the world for nurses who are practicing in Bermuda, while providing the training that prepares them for leadership roles.”

One day, while Gibson was touring a local hospital in Bermuda, she ran into nurse Carolann Tacklyn, with whom she had attended high school. “We had not seen one another since 1973,” says Gibson with a laugh, “but we knew each other right away.”

Tacklyn had entered nursing late in life, in 2017. “People of all ages are looking for new jobs and nursing could be one,” she told RG Scholarships magazine. “I think people can be intimidated by the study, but I’m here to tell you it’s the best thing I’ve ever done.” Tacklyn, a lifelong Bermudian, is scheduled to graduate next year with her Bachelor of Science degree from USC Upstate. Her academic advisor, none other than Dr. Gibson, says she couldn’t be prouder.



# Taking Note

*Commercial music professor recognized for his compositions and teaching.*

Like its casinos and nightlife, Las Vegas' all-you-can-eat buffets are legendary.

But as a young musician, Nolan Stolz was nourished by Sin City's smorgasbord of musical styles and genres.

"It was great," says Stolz, assistant professor of music at USC Upstate. "I had opportunities to learn and grow that I may not have had anywhere else. I think it definitely helped me become more well-rounded."

During the past two decades, Stolz has pursued his passion, gaining knowledge and experiences that have made him a highly regarded composer, music theorist and drummer.

Since arriving at USC Upstate in 2014, he has helped lead the university's commercial music program alongside his fellow Assistant Professor Griffin Woodward. Together, they have worked to elevate the student experience and the value of the program.

Stolz's efforts were rewarded recently when he was named a Breakthrough Star for 2020 by the University of South Carolina. This annual recognition is given to 12 junior faculty members in the USC system who "demonstrate considerable contributions to their fields in terms of research and scholarly activities."

"We would like to see our alumni working out in the music industry really in any capacity that they would like to; that they are best fit for," says Stolz. "We have several alumni out there already. We'd like to see more as we grow the program and graduate more students."

The commercial music program is designed to be dynamic, covering a broad range of disciplines, including

performance, instruction, directing, management, publishing, booking and music technology.

It integrates areas like music business, publishing, technology and education with the development of skills in performance, songwriting, ear training, repertoire, pedagogy, composition, arranging and improvisation.

Stolz explains it covers a range of popular music genres, such as rock, R&B, pop, country, funk, jazz and Latin. Students can develop their skills while performing with ensembles, including the Commercial Music Combo, Jazz Combo, Guitar Ensemble and Upstate Vocal Ensemble. These groups put on public performances throughout the year.

"The word we use is 'musicianship,'" Stolz says. "That encompasses music theory and training, and applying those skills to your primary instrument. The goal is to help students develop these basic skills and apply them while they're playing in ensembles."

Stolz knows firsthand the value of experiential learning.

Prior to joining USC Upstate, he taught for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, the University of South Dakota and Southeast Missouri State, Naugatuck Valley Community College and Three Rivers Community College. He traveled the country participating in various artist residencies.

In 2017, he completed the book "Experiencing Black Sabbath: A Listener's Companion," for which he received praise from the heavy metal band's famed singer, Ozzy Osbourne.

Throughout the years, he's played countless gigs with a range of acts, written and reviewed multiple essays and articles, served on a variety of

committees and was commissioned to compose a range of pieces for external institutions and organizations, all the time handling a typical teaching load.

Stolz's "Lincoln Highway Suite," a multi-movement orchestral work he wrote in 2013 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the historic transcontinental U.S. highway, has received international acclaim.

In 2018 Ablaze Records released a recording of the suite played by the Brno Philharmonic Orchestra of the Czech Republic. In January, the piece was played during the Spartanburg Philharmonic's American Masters event featuring Grammy Award-winning artist Béla Fleck.

"It's rare for a living composer to be programmed on a symphony orchestra concert," Stolz says. "It's truly an honor."

Stolz says he and Woodward have worked hard to create opportunities for their students.

"I encourage them right away to start learning songs, improve their music reading skills so they can go out and work with bands," he says. "I encourage them to go gig. Join a cover band. Start their own band ... Go to open mic nights and perform original songs. We try to promote as much experiential learning as possible."

"There have been several occasions where I've invited my students to sit in with the bands that I'm playing with," Stolz adds. "I'll tell the students to come to the show. I'll talk to the band leader and ask them to invite (the students) up for a song or two. In fact, I've taken some gigs solely because of opportunities for my students to sit in on a couple numbers. I'm doing it more for them than I am for me."

Stolz says the commercial music





program at USC Upstate was proposed in 2009. Currently, there are 20 students in the program, which he said is about average for commercial music programs at other institutions.

"We may be the only music program in the country that only offers commercial music," he says. "It's usually one of several degrees in a much larger comprehensive music program. It's an advantage for us to be able to focus on commercial music. The students aren't split between classical, jazz and commercial. That means the faculty aren't either. We aren't competing against an orchestra or concert band."

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*"It's rare for a living composer to be programmed on a symphony orchestra concert," Stolz says. "It's truly an honor."*

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This enables us to have a much stronger focus."

Stolz and Woodward have also continued to help provide their students with access to industry-standard equipment, software, hardware and flexible learning space.

"We're training students to use what they'll be working with out in the world," he says. "Everything is intertwined. That way they graduate as a complete musician."

Stolz, originally of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, earned his bachelor's degree from UNLV, his master's degree from the University of Oregon and his Ph.D. from the University of Hartford. 



# Team Effort

*Ingles Markets, USC Upstate partner on serving the campus and greater community.*

In February, USC Upstate and Ingles Markets Inc. announced a long-term agreement for the Asheville, North Carolina-based grocery chain to become the official sponsor of the university's athletics department.

University leaders say this unique partnership will increase visibility for both partners on campus and in the community, and create opportunities, such as free admission for baseball and softball games and creative programs, that benefit local charities. Two of the grocer's stores, at 8650 Asheville Highway near Boiling Springs and at 2120 E. Main St. in Duncan, have been branded with USC Upstate signage and some merchandise.

"Ingles is a philanthropic, community-focused company with strong core values that align with those of our university," says Daniel Feig, vice chancellor and director of Athletics for USC Upstate. "We are proud to collaborate with them on such a comprehensive partnership."

While partnerships with businesses are not new to USC Upstate Athletics, Feig says this one is distinctive because of the synergy between both institutions and Ingles' culture of giving.

"This isn't just a logo on the court," he says. "We're coming together in a creative way that will be a benefit to us, to them and the community. We are excited to promote the Ingles brand to our fans, alumni and the community, and we look forward to growing our partnership in the future."

Melissa Leavell, director of advertising and entertainment for Ingles, says Upstate and Ingles share a belief in giving back to the community.



Khrystal Smith, associate vice chancellor for student engagement, oversees the Spartan Pantry, which will be receiving additional support from Ingles Markets. The pantry provides food to students in need.

"Many universities have students who spend tens of thousands of dollars per year on tuition, but they never learn the importance of helping others," Leavell says. "It is USC Upstate's secret ingredient. Upstate is a very special place. From even before the first meeting I had with (Feig), I knew this university desires to help the community and teach its students how to make their communities better."

Along with Feig, Lenny Mathis, senior associate athletics director for external affairs, and others at USC Upstate are continuing to work with Leavell and her team to explore and develop innovative ways for both institutions to maximize their partnership.

## **Paying it forward**

Leavell's commitment to Ingles'

guiding principles, including supporting education, eliminating hunger and meeting specific community needs, is deeply personal.

When she was young, her father became ill and was unable to provide for the family. Leavell started working as early as she could to support her family, but was not able to pay for extracurricular activities or save up for college.

"A wonderful teacher of mine stepped in and paid for my extracurriculars," Leavell says. "The help we received as a family — there was no way on earth I could've gone to college without it."

Leavell attended Florida State University and soared as a member of the school's Flying High Circus. She traveled the world while she earned her bachelor's degree.



She returned to Tampa to get her master's degree and worked in a restaurant to support herself.

"The moment I could start mentoring people, I did," Leavell says. "Without the help of others, I don't know where I'd be. If it hadn't been for the community and other organizations around me — people who just reached out because they wanted to — I wouldn't be here. And USC Upstate does that."

### Elements in the equation

As part of the agreement, Ingles assumed the naming rights to the Champions Suite inside the G.B. Hodge Center and plans to feature select university events as part of their local television package.

The first live telecast resulting from the partnership was Feb. 27, when the Spartans men's basketball team took on Winthrop at home. The game aired in the Upstate and Western North Carolina on WYCW-TV 62 and other Nexstar Media Group affiliates.

Ingles has pledged to help USC Upstate expand the Spartan Fuel Bar, which features a variety of food and beverage items that help student-athletes with their metabolic recovery after strenuous practices and games.

The grocery chain also will support the university's Spartan Pantry, which provides food, nutritional information and other basic necessities throughout the school year to USC Upstate students in need.

Ingles has sponsored the admission charge for all USC Upstate home baseball and softball games for the 2020 and 2021 seasons. That means admission to all regular season home games at Cleveland S. Harley Park and Cyrill Softball Stadium will be complimentary.

USC Upstate Athletics and Ingles will hold events throughout the season that will give fans an opportunity to donate food, pet or school supplies to local charities in exchange for free admission.

Ingles also donated \$3 for every 3-point shot made during the 2019-2020 men's and women's basketball seasons. The funds supported the Gibbs Cancer Center and Research Institute's programming for survivorship and patients with special financial needs.


The grocer also donated \$1 for every strikeout recorded this year by the Spartans baseball and softball teams as part of the "K's for Kids" program. Baseball strikeout donations will support the Carolina Miracle League, a baseball league based in Spartanburg County for children and teens with mental and/or physical challenges. Softball donations will support the Hope Remains Ranch in Wellford, which provides equine therapy for abused and troubled children.

An Ingles-branded bull's-eye has been placed on the left field walls of both Harley Park and Cyrill Stadium. Every time a Spartan hits the bull's-eye, every fan in the ballpark will receive a coupon for a free sub sandwich combo from the

Ingles Deli of their choice.

University and Ingles leaders are discussing a number of other initiatives that could roll out in the near future.

Leavell said this past holiday season, Ingles served a meal to the men's and women's basketball teams while the campus was closed. This coming year, the grocer hopes to support USC Upstate's Angel Tree program with support from its Ingles Toy Store. The Toy Store, which opens annually during the Christmas season, features thousands of toys, games, dolls, clothes and stocking stuffers that are gifted to families in need.

"We put our muscle into activating and then helping people make a difference on the ground," Leavell says. "We're looking forward to working with USC Upstate to provide family fun activities, activities related to technology and entertainment, and maybe events for students to go out into the community to support charities. This is what we love to do." 

Below left, Ingles has branded two of its stores, one in Boiling Springs and the other in Duncan, with USC Upstate signage. Below right, Melissa Leavell of Ingles Markets is recognized as Spartan of the Game in February. With her are Athletics Director Daniel Feig, left, and Kyle Brunen, former director of institutional and student athlete wellness.





# Spartan Standouts Join Hall of Fame

*USC Upstate Athletics added three former student-athletes to its Hall of Fame earlier this year.*

Shellie Robinson, '15, Valerie Scott-Foster, '94, and Kenny Sugishita, '13, were inducted during a ceremony on Feb. 1 in the University Readiness Center.

"The USC Upstate Athletics Hall of Fame celebrates the many accomplishments on and off the playing fields and courts that our former student-athletes, coaches, staff, administrators, alumni and supporters achieved during their time at the university and around our program," says Chris Hawkins, USC Upstate softball head coach and chair of the Hall of Fame selection committee. "The shrine is a living institution that pays homage to the effort, hard work and dedication of the men and women who laid it on the line each and every day to make themselves, their teams and our university, bigger, brighter and better."

Robinson is the 9th softball player in pro-program history to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Originally of DeLand,

Fla., she played from 2012 to 2015.

In 2015, Robinson earned NFCA Second Team All-Region honors, ASUN Player of the Year, was an ASUN First Team All-Conference selection and was an NFCA Scholar-Athlete. The prior year, she was named a NFCA Third Team All-American, made the NFCA First Team All-Region Team, earned ASUN Player of the Year honors and was an ASUN First Team All-Conference selection.

In 2013, Robinson earned NFCA Second Team All-Region, ASUN First Team All-Conference and ASUN All-Tournament Team honors. During her freshman season, Robinson was an NFCA First Team All-Region selection, was named the 2012 ASUN Freshman of the Year, a First Team All-Conference selection, named the ASUN Player of the Year by College Sports Madness and was a member of the ASUN All-Freshman Team.

Valerie Scott-Foster is the 9th



Kenny W. Sugishita '13, Men's Track and Field, with his family

Women's Basketball player in program history to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. A native of Florence, Scott-Foster played on the USC Upstate women's basketball team from 1990 through 1994. She was named a Fourth Team All-American after her senior season in 1994.

The 1994 Peach Belt Player of the Year, Scott-Foster helped guide the Rifles to back-to-back NCAA Division II Tournament appearances in 1993 and 1994. She was a two-time Peach Belt All-Conference selection and finished her career with a Division II era school record of 245 steals.

Sugishita is the first member of the men's track and field team to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Originally from Arroyo Grande, Calif., he competed from 2011 to 2013 and was a seven-time ASUN athlete of the week.

In 2012, Sugishita was a NCAA First Round Qualifier and swept the ASUN Most Outstanding Field Performer Award at both the Indoor and Outdoor Championships.

A three-time ASUN shot put champion he holds the school record for shot put (indoor and outdoor), hammer throw (outdoor) and discus (outdoor).

Eighty-seven former student-athletes, coaches, administrators and alumni/supporters have been inducted into the USC Upstate Athletics Hall of Fame since its inception in 1999. It honors individuals who have outstanding athletic accomplishments or those who have made exceptional contributions to the Athletic department's success




Shellie M. Robinson '15, center, with softball assistant coaches Bryan Pack and Kendall Settlemyre



throughout the university's history.

To be eligible for nomination, all former student-athletes must have graduated from USC Upstate, participated in at least two years of competition while at the university and at least five years must have passed since their graduation. Former coaches and/or administrators become eligible one year after their departure from the university. Alumni/supporters are eligible for nomination at any time.

More information is available at: <https://upstatespartans.com/honors/hall-of-fame>. 



Valerie Scott-Foster '94, center, with former USC Upstate basketball coach Peggy Sells, left, and high school basketball coach Vicki Wilson

## RESCHEDULED



**Save  
the Date!**

**Josh Lee  
Memorial 5K  
Oct 24, 2020**

Proceeds from the race benefit the Josh Lee Memorial Scholarship Fund, which supports USC Upstate student-athletes in the cross country and track and field programs.

**9 a.m. start at G.B. Hodge  
Center, USC Upstate**

**Register at <http://runsignup.com/Race/SC/Spartanburg/JoshLeeMemorial5KRun>**





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# Sports Standouts

## Golf

1 USC Upstate women's golf team tied the school 18-hole record at the River Landing Classic in the spring en route to a runner-up finish in the tournament. Beem Pabsimma finished with an individual runner-up finish and earned Big South Player of the Week honors.

2 In February, senior men's golfer Reid Bedell joined USC Upstate alum Ryan Cornfield as the only two Spartans ever to crack the national Top 100 by Golfstat.com. Bedell was ranked No. 78 after twice earning Big South Golfer of the Week honors and defeating three top-30 players. In their only tournament of the Spring 2020 season, the USC Upstate men's golf team knocked off No. 21 Arkansas at the Sea Best Seafood Invitational.

## Soccer

3 Women's soccer player Abbie Ellis

will graduate from USC Upstate this year as one of the most decorated players in program history. Despite injuries, Ellis appeared in 13 games and led the Spartans in goals (5), points (12) and game-winning goals (2). Ellis holds the school record in several categories, including points (62), goals (26), game-winning goals (8), shots attempted (168), penalty kicks made (6) and penalty kicks attempted (7). She also holds the assists record (10) in the Division I era. The Spartans defeated cross-town rival Wofford for the first time in history this season.

4 Men's soccer player Pol Monells earned First Team Big South honors after he led the team in assists (6), points (12), shots (46), shots on goal (23) and game-winning goals (1). Monells finished second on the team in goals scored (3) and minutes played (1,306). The junior helped guide the Spartans to five wins on the season

and a victory against cross-town rival Wofford.

## Volleyball

5 Seniors Emily Russell led the Spartans on offense, registering 315 kills and leading the Big South in hitting percentage (.339). Defensively, Russell finished second on the team in total blocks (108) and she earned All Big South First Team honors for her efforts on the court. 6 Senior Gloria Ikenegbu led the Spartans with 121 blocks. She topped the Big South in blocks per set (1.22). Ikenegbu also recorded 238 kills for the season and earned All Big South Second Team honors.

## Basketball

The Spartan men finished seventh in the Big South Conference and won their first conference tournament game since 2015. Everett Hammond





and 7 **Tommy Bruner** led on offense, averaging more than 14 points per game. Bruner broke the Division I school record for points in a season (461), surpassing USC Upstate alum and NBA player **Torrey Craig**. He also earned All-Freshman team honors from the Big South and was the first Spartan since **Ty Greene** to be named to the Kyle Macy Freshman All-American Team.

Senior forward **Riley Popplewell** became one of the few players in USC Upstate women's basketball history to eclipse both the 1,000 point and the 700 rebound marks in her career. Senior guard **Brianna Lewis** scored more than 800 points and dished out nearly 260 assists in just two seasons with the Spartans. 8 The team ended the season on a high note by becoming the first ever 10 seed to reach the Big South Quarterfinals.

## Softball

9 Preseason Big South Player of the Year **Alyssa Oakes** and senior pitchers **Erin Hill** and **Celina Sullivan** helped the USC Upstate softball team to a 17-7 record before the season ended early due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On Feb. 22, the Spartans picked up their 250th home win of the decade against Maine. The team boasts a 255-47 home record since the 2011 season, the best in the state of South Carolina. USC Upstate head coach **Chris Hawkins** now has 952 career victories heading into the 2021 season.

## Baseball

10 New head coach **Mike McGuire** and his team compiled a 13-5 record, one of their best starts since moving to Division I in 2008, before the team's season also ended prematurely. USC Upstate also knocked off a pair of Power 5 opponents in Northwestern

and Michigan State. Sophomore **Jack Hennessy** was named Big South Player of the Week on March 2. The team also led the Big South in batting average (.288) and was No. 1 in earned run average (3.61).

## Track

11 **Angelnique Bryant** and **Andanma Uzor** both defended their Big South Championships in the 60 meter and the Triple Jump events at the Big South Indoor Track and Field Championships earlier this year. **Jared Henderson** broke the school record en route to winning the 200 meter dash. **ZoRyan Hendricks** set a school record in the 60 meter hurdles and finished runner-up in the event, while **Tony Auguste** came in third place in the weight. **Jonathan Loy** and **Allie Leavitt** were both named to the Big South Conference All-Academic Team at the event. 



# GAME FACES

During the last two basketball seasons, USC Upstate Athletics has taken the opportunity to recognize donors, supporters and friends of the department as “Spartan(s) of the Game.” These special Spartans have made significant contributions toward the success of USC Upstate Athletics, including funding new scholarship opportunities for Upstate student-athletes.



## THE FOLLOWING WERE RECENT HONOREES:

- ① State Rep. Max Hyde
- ② Charles E. and Benita D. Stavely
- ③ The Rev. Calvin Cleveland Jr. '84
- ④ Drs. Brendan and Tressa Kelly
- ⑤ Jakie '80 and Charles J. Hodge







# Help create transformational opportunities for USC Upstate student-athletes! Join the U Club today!

To learn more, call **864-503-7367**, email [uclub@uscupstate.edu](mailto:uclub@uscupstate.edu), or visit [www.upstatespartans.com/sports/uclub](http://www.upstatespartans.com/sports/uclub)

For information about tickets or group packages, call **864-503-5893**, or visit [www.upstatespartans.com/fanzone/tickets](http://www.upstatespartans.com/fanzone/tickets)



## Support Upstate Athletics and Show Your Spirit!


USC Upstate Athletics has launched a new online store for alumni, students and fans eager to purchase Spartans merchandise.

The store, created in partnership with Follett On-Demand, features a range of USC Upstate-branded T-shirts, sweats, bags, hats, mugs and hundreds of other items at [shop.upstatespartans.com](http://shop.upstatespartans.com).

Online purchases typically ship within 24 hours. A percentage of sales support USC Upstate Athletics directly.

"This is exciting for our supporters, as [shop.upstatespartans.com](http://shop.upstatespartans.com) becomes the largest retailer of Upstate Spartans gear in our history," says

Lenny Mathis, senior associate athletic director for external operations. "There are thousands of items, including apparel, watches, tailgate tents, children's items and all points in between. To have this available 24/7, 365 days per year, expands our reach and takes our profile to the next level. With a percentage of the sales supporting Upstate Athletics directly, this is a win-win for everyone."

U Club members are eligible for an additional 5% off all orders through a specific promotional code sent via email. For more information, contact John Fray at [uclub@uscupstate.edu](mailto:uclub@uscupstate.edu). 





# Kim Jolley to Lead Fundraising and Foundation Initiatives

USC Upstate welcomed Kimberly Jolley to the campus this spring as interim vice chancellor for University Advancement. Jolley will lead the university's fundraising initiatives, working closely with its foundation boards to leverage the momentum USC Upstate has gained over the last few years.


"Never before has the mission of USC Upstate been more relevant than in recent weeks with COVID-19," says Karen Calhoun, chair of the USC Upstate Foundation. "It is critical that we continue to provide a bright future for individuals in our community who have the desire to serve as teachers, health care professionals, and business leaders, regardless of what the delivery methods for learning might be. We should all be honored to see the commitment USC Upstate has made to ensure we have a talented and highly educated workforce in the Upstate."

Jolley comes to USC Upstate from SunTrust Bank in Spartanburg, where she served as city president for 11 years. She brings a solid history of success in commercial lending and consumer and

business banking environments, along with extensive experience with nonprofit boards of directors and community organizations. She serves on the boards of the Spartanburg Chamber of Commerce Economic Futures Group and the Mary Black Foundation Investment Committee, among others.

"Great things are happening at USC Upstate, and I am thrilled to be a part of the USC Upstate Foundations/University Advancement team as we continue our growth to reach more students," Jolley said. "I have lived in the Upstate most of my life, and I am excited to bring my knowledge of this community and connect with people in a new way."

Jolley replaces Dr. Meredith Brunen, who recently accepted an invitation to lead the Advancement division at the University of West Georgia. "The past three years have been characterized by tremendous growth, momentum and success," Brunen said in a message to campus. "Together, we embraced a vision for USC Upstate, brought it to life for our campus and our community, and instilled great pride in our alumni and throughout our region."

"More and more, USC Upstate is providing an opportunity for a transformative educational experience through the diversity of its coursework and experiential offerings, its personalized attention to and support for its students, and its focus on career-relevant academic endeavors," says Ken Darr, vice chair of the Foundation board. "The well-rounded and ever-expanding variety of higher education experiences available to Upstate students is being adjusted continuously to meet their needs and those of employers in our region, and is recognized favorably by respected observers of higher education. I look forward to what the future holds for this institution." 



## USC UPSTATE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Jolley and Brunen had an opportunity to work together on the SunTrust Financial Literacy Series, which USC Upstate has hosted for the last several years.



## USC Upstate Names 2020 Alumni Award Winners

Earlier this year, USC Upstate recognized two extraordinary alumni who embody the core values and ambitions of their alma mater.

The Young Alumni Award was presented to former student-athlete Ashley Belton, '08, who serves as a critical care RN at HealthTrust. Belton's nursing resume includes stints at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, St. Thomas West Hospital, Southern Hills Medical Center and Dekalb Medical Center. She is currently pursuing her doctorate in nursing anesthesia.

Ryon Smalls, '14, received the Outstanding Alumni Award. Smalls is an associate for the McAdoo & Lorick law firm and a first lieutenant for the U.S. Army National Guard. Smalls is a co-founder and director of Race 4 Achievement, a nonprofit dedicated to academic excellence, community advancement and youth advocacy.





## HOMECOMING 2020

USC Upstate welcomed alumni back to campus Jan. 28-Feb. 1 to celebrate Homecoming. Festivities began Tuesday with a gathering at Tetrad Brewing Co. in Greenville, followed by a party at RJ Rockers in Spartanburg Friday night during which alumni awards were presented.

On Saturday, before cheering on the men's and women's basketball games at the G.B. Hodge Center, alums mingled and took part in tailgating activities set up by faculty, staff and students around the parking lot. Several alums also took part in the unveiling of the new fraternity and sorority banners that are now hanging in the lower quad area on campus.









## SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

The annual Scholarship Luncheon honors and recognizes USC Upstate's scholarship recipients, donors, and friends for their contributions to academic excellence. This year's event honored more than 100 students and nearly 100 donors, and offered students an opportunity to tell donors what their scholarships meant to them. Also recognized during the luncheon were new endowments from Rose L. Bailey and Vic C. Bailey III, Jakie '80 and Charles J. Hodge, and Hubbell Lighting.



① Michel P. '93 and Nikki N. '10 Moton, sponsors of the Simoton Scholarship, and scholarship recipient Antonio Tanner. Tanner is a commercial music major and psychology minor who will graduate in 2021. He plans to pursue a career in music therapy.

② Garth Warner of Hubbell Lighting Inc. and Benita Hopkins, associate vice chancellor for development and alumni relations

③ Catherine Ervin Scholar and freshman nursing major Sarah Woodfin shares what her scholarship has meant to her.

④ Joe and Dee Bowman of the Dr. Joseph C. & Mrs. Deanna M. Bowman Endowed Scholarship and Associate Athletic Director for Development John Fray. The Bowmans are longtime friends of USC Upstate.

⑤ First generation American and college freshman Jhonny Villamil says he feels the pressure to succeed, not just for himself, but for his family and extended family around the world. With the help of the D. L. Scurry Foundation Scholarship, Villamil is making the American Dream a reality by pursuing a nursing degree with plans to specialize in nurse anesthesiology.





## Alumni Luncheons

USC Upstate Alumni Relations hosted two Alumni Workplace Luncheons this winter, one at QS/1 (Smith Technologies) in downtown Spartanburg and the other at Milliken & Co. at the company's Spartanburg headquarters. The luncheons are a recognition of the many USC Upstate alumni who continue to live and work in the area after graduation. At the time of the luncheons, 71 alumni were employed at Smith Technologies, and 62 at Milliken.







# FOUNDERS DAY

## CELEBRATION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020

USC Upstate held its annual Founders Day dinner in February. The black-tie event was an opportunity for friends and supporters of the university to wish Chancellor Brendan Kelly and First Lady Tressa Kelly well as they prepared to embark on a new chapter at the University of West Georgia. Also during the event, the campus master plan was unveiled.





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1 Candace C. Cole, First Lady Suzanne Cole, state Rep. Edward R. Tallon Sr., Interim Chancellor J. Derham Cole Jr.

2 Anne C. and George E. Moseley

3 Jennifer Evins and USC Trustee C. Daniel Adams '83

4 R. Scott and Pamela G. Heath

5 Leon E. and Maliaka Wiles

6 Elizabeth C. and Tommy Young III

7 The Honorable Toney J. and Cynthia L. Lister

8 State Rep. Edward R. Tallon Sr., the Honorable J. Derham Cole, Interim Chancellor J. Derham Cole Jr., and state Rep. Max T. Hyde

9 Anne P. and Lawrence E. Flynn Jr.

10 Chip '78 and Laura Smith

11 Susan Hodge and William Pinckney Irwin IV

12 Chancellor's Fellows Nehemiah Chandler, Kenyatta Jeffcoat, Rebecca Turner, Gracie Adams, Sharan Ravishankar

13 Lynn N. and Vic C. Bailey III



# Congratulations *Class of 2020*

Dear Graduate,

On behalf of the University of South Carolina Upstate, I am delighted to commend you on your graduation. This significant milestone represents a tremendous accomplishment of which you and your family should be extremely proud. Congratulations!

The Class of 2020 has already made history. Your final semester at USC Upstate will long be remembered as an unprecedented time. But you rose to the occasion, and you will be remembered for your dedication and resilience – for your ability to overcome an international crisis and go out into the world stronger and more committed than ever.

As a graduate of USC Upstate, your credentials and experience, as well as your career and personal successes, will forever be interwoven into the success story of this institution. We hope you will always remain connected to your alma mater – attending athletics events, hosting internships, mentoring undergraduates, and engaging with the Alumni Association. When you help to bolster the reputation of USC Upstate in the hearts and minds of those in our region, state, and nation, your degree will become all the more valuable.

Once again, congratulations on this outstanding achievement. May all your personal and professional aspirations become a reality.

Go Spartans!

Sincerely,



J. Derham Cole, Jr.  
Interim Chancellor



# CLASS OF 2020 - MAY COMMENCEMENT GRADUATES

USC Upstate honors the 2020 May 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.

*Graduates reflected include those who registered as of a publication deadline of May 1.*

## COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Amanda Nicole Abernathy \*  
Samuel Matthew Adams  
Kennay Agnew  
Avery Lynn Allen  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Courtney Victoria Allen  
Tala Alnatour  
Taylor J. Anderson  
Jessica Apple  
Jullian Atteberry  
Jordan Nicole Baird  
Caleb Mark Batchelor  
Cambria Starr Beatty-Linder  
E'Jaysia Ashly Bell  
Christopher Harold Bloxham  
Jhennel Brown  
Charlisa Nicole Brown  
Sean Dara Burch \*  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Delaney Susan Bussey  
*Cum Laude*  
James Douglas Caldwell  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Briana Ondina Carcamos  
Amber Brooke Carter  
Jordan R. Carter  
Morgan Brianna Casey  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Carli Marie Chiatto  
*Cum Laude*  
Shiloh Faith Chisolm  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Carson Blake Cobb

Nicholas Scott Collins  
Matthew Cam Compton  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Solomon Sunray Constant  
Tiffany Nicole Cora-Feliciano  
Abigail Cox  
Christopher William Coxey  
Jonai Catilan Crawford  
Trevor James Crone  
Ivey Crook  
Dondre Ja'Von Crosby  
*Cum Laude*  
Cassidy Brooke Culbreth  
Alicia Jenae Daniel  
Emily Sarah Danielson  
Bernetha Kathleen Davis  
Viktoria Kathryn DeJesus  
Shiloh J. Dillard  
Kiara Kioni Dingle  
Madison Rebekah Dix  
Narasia Dixon  
Aleah Porshae Allen Donald  
Blake Samuel Douglas  
Kennedy Marie Downs  
Nicholas Bates Ellenburg  
De'Naisha Lachane Floyd  
Shaketa Foggie  
Colin James Foley  
Briana Davina Gatson  
Alexis Ayanna Geddis  
Dillon Adolphus Gibson  
*Cum Laude*  
Elaisha Robin Gibson



**REBECCA GRACE TURNER**  
B.A., Communications

*My favorite memory with USC Upstate is going with two of my favorite professors, Dr. David Wallace and Dr. Emily Kofoed, and some of the most amazing Communications students to Washington D.C. to learn about journalism and political communication. Advice I would give to future Spartans is to make connections with your professors and faculty members. They are the best resource and support systems a student could ever want!*



**KENYATTA JEFFCOAT**  
B.A., Communications

*If I had to pick one memory, it would be Homecoming 2018. The abundance of school spirit was beyond amazing - it felt as if it was overflowing right through the roof. The loving, family atmosphere that our school family embodies was there, as always. I have several words to share for a future Spartan. First, make the best of your college experience. Maximize every opportunity. Secondly, be involved in whatever interests you and stay actively involved in your University.*

Joyful Gillanders  
Cervazea Demon Glenn  
*Cum Laude*  
Carolina Gonzalez  
Kendra Yvette Gore  
Taylor Briana Gossett  
Austin Lane Grant  
Brooke Rebecca Graydon  
Madison Grayshock  
Porchia Handsford  
Sarah Elizabeth Hannah  
*Cum Laude*  
Hugh Anthony Harvin Jr  
Serena TyAlma Hayes  
Demora Rei Haywood  
Ashley Elizabeth Heavner  
Hannah M. Henkel-Kiepert  
Caroline Rose Heustess  
Katherine Hilliard  
Katlyn L. Hinson  
Zenobia La'Verne Hipps  
Morgan Grace Holmes  
Whitney Holmes  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Lakeisha Danielle Hooks  
Sydney Carlin Howard  
*Cum Laude*  
Sarah Iraheta  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Sarah Ivester  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Kenyatta Enevelyn Jeffcoat

Breanna René Jefferson  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Julia Diann Jones  
DeAnna Latrece Jones  
Taylor Catherine Keeter  
Damarion Kristian Kellett  
Durwin Lee Kelly  
Hannah Mwende Kituku  
Brittnee Iamia Knight  
Anastasiya Koval  
Hannah Renae Kowatch  
Sandra Kaylin Kreeger  
*Cum Laude*  
Savannah Leigh Lanford  
Brent Philip Latham  
Mackenzie Carla Lauer  
Jenna Elizabeth Lawson  
*Cum Laude*  
Julia Lauren Liberty  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Brittney Danielle Lillie  
Alexis Leigh Lindner  
Madison Brooke Lindsey  
Taneja Livingston  
Jessica Nicole Lloyd  
Jonathan Loaiza  
Kaitlyn Satterfield Looper  
Christopher Scott Lucios  
Nyeisha Lyde  
Callisha Kwmae Lyles  
Kianna Mandel  
James Christopher Marvin

\* Veterans



Spurgeon Mattison III  
 Sydni Milan McDonald  
 John Curtis McDonald  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
 Seth Michael McElveen  
 Carter Joseph McGill  
*Cum Laude*  
 Cynthia Deon McHam  
 Jaquavius Tyrell McKinney  
 Jessica Lorraine McMaster  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
 Heys Edward McMath IV  
 Kortney Tatyana Means  
 Kayla Alivia Means  
 Roslyn D. Meadows\*  
 Elizabeth Meyer  
 Makala Jane Miller  
 Emani Miller  
 Logan Andrew Miller  
 Maya Imani Miller  
 Jayla DaVon Moore  
 Tyvon Kareen Moore  
 Taylor More  
 Sharon Michelle Morrissey  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
 Sarah A. Mullins  
*Cum Laude*  
 Ashlynn Cheyanne Murray  
*Cum Laude*  
 Melissa Dawn Myers  
 RicQwana Neely  
 La'Niaya Dy'Quesha Nesbitt

Jason Joel Newland  
 Elizabeth Norris  
 Tiffani Amber O'Dell  
 Adrian Ochieng' Odhiambo  
 John Alan Osborne  
 Lenisha Chauntay Owens  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
 Savannah Ruth Owens  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
 Lukas Brett Oxford  
 Napatthorn Paksanont  
 Natalia Panufnik  
 Kimberly Nicole Paredes  
 Rylie Louise Parkhurst  
 Lindsey Kate Parris  
*Cum Laude*  
 Ashlyn Diane Patterson  
 Calvin Keshawn Peake  
 Jalisa Lachaune Pearson  
 William Austin Peavyhouse  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
 Gibson Christopher Peters  
 Melissa Pettinato Irby  
 Jazmine C. Porter  
 Joshua Raymond Porter  
 Mirsada Powell  
 Ieshia Janay Rhames  
 Taylor Ann Rhymer  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
 Madelyn Grace Richards  
*Magna Cum Laude*

Alexis Kay Lynn Richter  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
 Lindsay Nicole River  
 Jaira Iman Rivers  
 Savannah Christine Roach  
 Kelly O'Neal Roth  
 Nicole Campbell Runyon  
 Madeline Marie Ryan  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
 Chrishonda Sinclair Sanders  
 Madison Lee Scott  
 Kendall Charisse Shelton  
 Olivia Cambie Sisic  
 Kamiya Chanell Sloan  
*Cum Laude*  
 Nuri E. Smith  
 Devin Mathew Smith \*  
 Edward Andrew Snyder \*  
 Christopher Soto  
 Emily Elizabeth Southerland  
*Cum Laude*  
 Hannah Sox  
 Daniel Michael Stacy Jr.  
 Ashton Noel Stanfield  
 Kaylie Brooke Stapleton  
 Kerrie Brooke Staton  
 Brittany Leann Sterling  
*Cum Laude*  
 Elizabeth Dale Stevens  
 Max McKenzie Stewert  
 Noah Hunter Strange

Naomi Joy Tate  
 Miyah Anita Thompson  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
 Mikeya Denise Toney  
*Cum Laude*  
 Mattison Alexandria Trammell  
 Caron Dannette Turnage  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
 Rebecca Grace Turner  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
 Blake Ulmer Valentine  
*Cum Laude*  
 Malcolm Donell Vanhannegeyn  
 Brianna Michelle Rose Vaughn  
 Maleiah Denise Washington  
 Jessica B. Washington \*  
 Amber Leigh Weber  
 Elijah Tre'Quan Welch  
 Charley Danielle West  
*Cum Laude*  
 Alexis Mariah Ryan Williams  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
 Austin Cole Harvey Williams  
 Haley Brooke Williams  
 Justin Everette Lee Williams  
 Nicole Lasha Wilson \*  
 Dion Jaquel Wilson  
 Hannah Rose Wilson  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
 Destiny Tierra Wingate  
 Miatas Mysharon Young \*

## COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Talia Quinyon Barnes  
 Sean Erik Bartels  
 Tabatha Lea Bennett  
 Kasey M. Benton  
 Tyler Scott Bishop  
 James Anthony Bobo  
 Andrew Jilling Bohlman  
 Jasmine Rochelle Breland  
 Kaara Akivia Brown  
 Javasia Simone Brown  
 Antonella Camacho  
 Iniquah Mecca-Danyelle Cobbs  
 Fredderick Lamont Coleman Jr  
 Jasmine Kamille Collier  
 Jason M. Cox \*  
*Cum Laude*  
 Mary A. Delorenzi  
 Brennon Philip Easler  
 Norleen Talal El-Fayez  
 Carrie E. Ferro  
 Erin Danielle Flaherty  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
 Dekedre Terell Fuller \*

Richard Gallego  
 Michael Joseph Gibson  
*Cum Laude*  
 John Michael Greer  
*Cum Laude*  
 Tedric Antonio Gregory  
 Shashank Gupta  
 Aubry Paige Horne  
 Joshua Todd Howard  
 Tyler Kevin Huggins \*  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
 Erma Huseinbasic  
 Joshua Aaron Izaguirre  
 Daiquan Tyrell Jacques  
 Nicholas Antonio Jeter  
 Ebony Laerica Joe  
 James Thomas Johnson Jr  
 David Matthew Jones  
 Rachel Ihn Kang  
 John Kiehl II  
 YoonJung Kim  
 Madhav Ramesh Kumar  
*Magna Cum Laude*



**TALIA BARNES**  
 B.S., Biology

*My fondest memory of my time here at USC Upstate is teaching a group of kindergarteners about washing hands and the spread of germs. My best advice for future Spartans would be to keep trying — you may not make the best grade in every class but your determination will see you through.*

Patrick Lacey  
 Andrea Janay Lawrence  
 Andrew Douglas Maiorana  
 Tylisa Simone McBeth  
 Sha'Mani McDowell

Teshona Tylonda McKinney  
 Curnel Clarke McLain  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
 Lane A. Merritt  
 Thomas Midek

\* Veterans



## COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Whitney Shantae Morrow  
Benjamin Nyiajtshaj Moua  
Eyad Mourtada  
*Cum Laude*  
SiMone Aleah Mouzon  
Kirstie Ann Mundok  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Dylan Grant Napoli  
Tori Anne Neet  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Destinee Khamdeng Panyasiri  
Phillip S. Pipenko

Jacey Dawn Price  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Morgan Taylor Prince  
Hannah LeGette Rakestraw  
Janis Reinelt  
Jacob Daniel Rice  
Christian Frederick Rodriguez  
Maya Richelle Rogers  
Jaspreet Singh Sahota  
Noah Shelton  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Wilbert Stanley Sims Jr

Nuri E. Smith  
Kayla Simone Snowden  
Kevin Harvey Star  
Ruth Antonia Suber  
Chad Michael Tange  
Sharon Nicole Thompson  
Austin Brooks Tucker  
Chad Turner  
Yurik Valderrama Castillo  
Zacheriah Clark Valis  
Robert Konrad Wiley  
Chelsea Charnae Williams

Daniel Jon Williams  
Kailyn Lajuan Williams  
Brian Jordan Winebrenner  
*Cum Laude*  
Asiah Monah Wynn  
Vladimir Zotov

## GEORGE DEAN JOHNSON, JR. COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

Jonathan Agudelo +  
Taosif Ahmad  
Rebecca McKelvey Armstrong  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Preston Lee Arnold  
Hayley Morgan Babb  
Emilee Nichole Barger  
Quentin J. Bellamy  
Heather Birch  
Sandra Blessing  
Erika Marie Boger  
*Cum Laude*  
Noah Bourke  
Tatyana Shamya Boyd  
Brett Tyler Bradley  
Amirah Lamis Brown  
Michael Brown II  
Melissa Cabrera  
Coby Michael Carothers  
Shivani Chaudhary  
Taylor Christian Cole

Francisco Costa Neto  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Kaitlyn Rebecca Cote  
Casey Kristopher Cox  
Patrick Stephen Danko  
Connor Grayson Deany  
*Cum Laude*  
Chad Deniz Erturk  
Adrianna-Jule'ah Hope  
Ferguson  
Gloria Martin Forsythe  
Conner Casey Fowler  
*Cum Laude*  
Darrell R. Fowler  
Nathan Scott Fowler  
Hunter Stedman Fry  
*Cum Laude*  
Patrick William Glover  
Ryan James Glover  
Johnathan Brent Gunning  
Jesse Daniel Hafer



**EMMA GRACE HONIS**  
*B.S., Business Administration*

My favorite memory at Upstate was making it to the semi-finals my second year at Upstate. I had the privilege of being a part of the Women's soccer program here and when we got to represent and play in the Big South Semi-finals it was a great atmosphere and an experience I will never forget sharing with my team. If I could give anyone advice, it would be to enjoy and take advantage of your time in college!



**SANGITA KERAİ**  
*M.S., Business Analytics*

I remember late nights and early mornings spent preparing for exams and projects with some of the most hardworking people, helping each other understand the material, and encouraging each other to aim for the best. Then afterward, celebrating our achievements and enjoying each others' company outside the classroom. I would recommend getting out there and really lean in. Get to know your fellow students and professors. Invest in building relationships with your classmates outside of school walls.

Dekayla Annie Mae Hamilton  
Russell Hammond  
Mitchell Peter Harrison  
Tierra Ken'Yada Hicks  
Erin Elizabeth Hill  
*Cum Laude*  
Ashley Nicole Hodge  
Jonathan James Hofschneider  
Emma Grace Honis  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Leah Katherine Horan  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Bailey Elizabeth Hoskins  
Sean Stephen Hupp  
Andrew Kenneth Huyck  
Kelly S. Hydrick  
Cynthia Ihetu  
Candy Jimenez  
*Cum Laude*  
Hayley Nicole Jones  
Alexander Karcha

Camilla Kilinc  
Andres Federico Kim  
Alexis Raquel Koll  
Martin Luther Lance V  
Alan Lewis  
Nhi Man Luu  
Marcus Jaray Miles  
Abigail Elizabeth Moore  
Gabrielle Nicole Moore  
Steven Bradley Morrow  
Erica Kellett Nasim  
Alexander Chi Kit Ng +  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Dalton Blake Noffsinger  
Akers Montgomery Oglesby +  
*Cum Laude*  
KKevin O'Leary  
Fernando Jose Orellana  
Thomas Michael Parker  
Daniel Reed Parris  
*Magna Cum Laude*

+ Veterans



## GEORGE DEAN JOHNSON, JR. COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

Derek Lyle Pennington  
Christopher Blake Porter  
Gregory Lane Powers  
Jacey Dawn Price  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Gavin Alden Pruitt  
Patrick Pierce Putnam  
Eric Reynoso  
Michael Alexander Richard  
*Cum Laude*  
Vanessa Roesel  
Emily Claire Russell  
*Cum Laude*  
Christian Sanchez  
Samuel Timothy Schiano  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Kyle Schmitt  
Lara Theresia Schnittger  
Savannah Elizabeth Seegars  
Landon Jeffrey Settlemyre  
Anna Shimanskiy

Khala Shantel Simmons  
Kaylee Sims  
Matthew Brendan Slaton  
Michele Denise Smith  
Sean Daniel Stanistreet  
Larron Je'Vone Starks  
Paul Edward Stegall  
Alina Steindl  
Kendevon Germar Stenhouse  
Jada Alyssa Sullivan  
Rebecca Kate Swad  
*Cum Laude*  
Andrew Lewis Tate  
Marina Elizabeth Trail  
Ashley Turner  
Jordan Wesley Warnock  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Brittany Makayla Warren  
Megan Elizabeth West  
William Andrew Wheeler  
Kamden O'neal Williams



**EMILEE BARGER**  
B.A., Business Administration

I vividly remember moving into my dorm my freshman year. After everything was unpacked and my mom left, I sat on the bed and thought, "I'm really doing this." Being the first in my family to attend college seemed to be an overwhelming challenge at the time, but I was ready to tackle it. If I had one piece of advice, it would be to go through college with no "what ifs." If you're wondering if you should audition for a sport or join a club, just do it!

Lauren Nicole Williams  
Lawson Kennedy Worley

Tyvari Shaquan Young  
*Magna Cum Laude*

## MARY BLACK SCHOOL OF NURSING

Genavieve Isabelle Alapi  
Addison Taylor Allen  
Sara Alnobani  
*Cum Laude*  
Kaylee Brooke Anderson  
Olivia Denise Anderson  
Melissa Amanda Andrews-Estridge  
Irina Arabadzhi  
Timberly Alexis Belton  
Christian Wesley Black  
Taylor Pence Blackstone  
Jelisa Boulware  
Kathryn JoAnna Braddock  
*Cum Laude*

Jeremy Eugene Breland  
Raelyn LeeAnn Brown  
*Cum Laude*  
Jordan LeAnn Burgess  
Elizabeth Hendrix Burwell  
Destiny Nycole Butler  
Megan Taylor Byars  
Angelia Renee Cason  
Kellie Collins  
Ashley Nicole Corbin  
Keshia D. Crouch  
Alyssa Camilla Curry  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Allee Holland Dacus

Bailey Alexandra Davenport  
Casey Leighann Davis  
Skye Michelle Davis  
Steven Hunter DeBord +  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Ebonie T. Dockery  
Mary Catherine Donahue  
Maryanne H Ebersole  
Haley Brooke Elkins  
Madison V. Elliott  
Abbigale Marie Ellis  
*Cum Laude*  
Jordyn Shay Ellis  
Alyssa Caitlyn Emanuel  
Jade Wheatley Erickson  
*Cum Laude*  
Jamie Morgan Estes  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Meghan M. Fain  
Marie Elizabeth Farmer  
Jasmine Tate Felder  
Kennedy Michelle Font  
Catherine Elizabeth Franklin  
Clarissa Jaquelin Frost  
Tyra Laishelle Fulton  
*Cum Laude*  
Hannah Marie Garrett  
Shawna Gerard  
Hannah Geter  
Aliyah Girault  
Mary Elizabeth Glisson

Elizabeth Ann Graves  
Latoya Green  
Kathy C. Gregory  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
India S. Grice  
Shenandoah Renee Gugel Shackelford  
Nicholas Alan Hagen  
Brianne Nix Hall  
*Cum Laude*  
Ashley Denise Hanks  
*Cum Laude*  
Heather Veronica Hanlon  
*Cum Laude*  
Spencer Still Harbuck  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Kaylyn Nichole Harris  
Logan Grimsley Hatfield  
Kristina Charlene Hawkins  
Miranda L. Hellams  
Modina Marie Hickmon  
Jessica Lauren Hinson  
Chelsey Marie Horn  
Jeffrey Howard  
Deante Delaine Hunter  
Gloria Ebelechukwu Ikenegbu  
Carlotta Marie Jackson  
Trisha Jenkins  
Amy Poe Jimmerson  
Shatasia Briana Johnson  
Jessi Ralston Jordan  
Kasey Creswell Knox



**ANNA MUSENGA**  
B.S., Nursing

My best memory of Upstate must be my interactions with the faculty and staff. Throughout my years at Upstate, I have learned from faculty who are eager to teach, and I crossed paths with the kindest staff members. My best advice to future Spartans: Get involved! My regret is not joining student organizations earlier in my journey. Joining student organizations made my nursing school experience much better. Your college experience is what YOU make it!

+ Veterans



## MARY BLACK SCHOOL OF NURSING

Ioulia Yurievna Korikov  
Mallory Kara Kovacs  
Jacqueline Kwasniewski Lechner  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Ashley Morgan LaFrance  
Sydney Alexandria Laws  
Avery Jess Layton  
*Cum Laude*  
Jodi Libardi  
Breanna Taylor Livingston  
*Cum Laude*  
Oksana Lutsik  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Katelyn Shannon Lynn  
Malayshia Jane' Mack  
Kayla C. Maloney  
Logan Elizabeth Martin  
Felisa Gilliam McEntyre  
Amelia Grace McClain  
Nytear Zaneta McClain  
Rachel Danielle Merkle  
Brenda Marvely Molina  
Haley Campbell Moon  
Angela Marie Moore  
Logan Briana Morales

William Calhoun Mulvaney  
Nichole Champion Murray  
Anna Musenga  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Jason R. Nicholson +  
Mark Nikolaychuk  
Tatyana T. Nikolaychuk  
Tracy Fennell Nutt  
Kimberly M. Owens  
Juliana Parra Velasquez  
Krysta Pierstorff  
Patricia Michelle Posey  
Ashton Lynn Pruitt  
Sarah Katherine Pruitt  
Victoria Lynn Putnam  
James Michael Puzakulics +  
*Cum Laude*  
McKenzie Grayson Quinn  
Da'Masha Ky'Shone Ragin  
*Cum Laude*  
Mia Jane Raiff  
Merisa Ann Ramirez  
Madison Kay Register  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Aaron Reiter

Tanner Heath Roach  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Josie Lynn Roberts  
Addrienne Faith Robinson  
Alexa Deniss Roman  
Camacho  
Brianna Noelle Roper  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Caleb Jesse Satterfield  
Savanah Ella Shelton  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Ciara Merceye Sikes  
*Cum Laude*  
Jada Synclaire Simmons  
Shelby Rebecca Smart  
Jazmine Danielle Smith  
Dejae' Mae Stephens  
Laura Mae Stevenson  
Christine Noel Stewart  
Mark D. Stoliarchuk  
Sara Hannah Strange  
Brianna Elizabeth Thomas  
Kristen Rebecca Thompson +  
Otissha Thompson

Mark Russell Tretyak  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Callie Elaine Troutman  
Stephanie Lee Turner  
Nicole Underwood  
Kayla Denise Vanderford  
*Cum Laude*  
Lisa Vidallon  
Carli Grace Ward  
Lana Whitaker  
Catherine Long Williams  
Lynette Christine Williamson  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Catherine Maria Wilson  
Amber Jean Wood  
Callie Bryana Yeargin  
Marnie Zbin  
Victoria Rose Zollinger

## SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, HUMAN PERFORMANCE, AND HEALTH

Katie Renee Abercrombie  
Bryana Cherelle Anderson  
Erica Clinton Anderson  
Justin Anderson  
Catherine Michelle Arya  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Caroline Reid Bailey  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Morgan Keanna Barksdale  
Jesus Barron  
Brooke Emily Bean  
*Cum Laude*  
Chastico Shante Beasley  
Sherrina Niquole Black  
*Cum Laude*  
Caitlin Elizabeth Blackburn  
*Cum Laude*  
Rowan Nicole Blanchard  
Cassie Marie Blanton  
Nicholas Jerel Brannon  
Reginald Maurice Brown  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Kaci Hunter Buhler  
Joel Thomas Bunting  
*Cum Laude*  
Seth Gregory Byland

Tiffany Diane Campbell  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Spencer Mitchell Carmona  
Hailey Rose Cecere  
*Cum Laude*  
Anna Ying Chanthaphaeng  
Samantha Leigh Clinton  
Joshua Wayne Cox  
Erin Monique Creech  
Keishon Ashli Cullum  
Tyler Cummings  
Tiesha Monnett Davis  
Dominique Jade D'Onofrio  
*Cum Laude*  
Kyanna Michelle Douglas  
Kinley Madison Dover  
*Cum Laude*  
Scott Tyler Dunn  
Jake Spencer Edmonds  
Valerie H. Elmore  
Paige Marie Emke  
Aubree Ann Estep  
Susannah Caroline Fassett  
Keshon Ferguson  
Karla Lynn Franklin  
*Magna Cum Laude*



**HAMILTON GMAH**  
B.S., Exercise and Sport Science

My fondest memory of my time at USC Upstate will most likely be the midnight breakfast. The atmosphere is what I looked forward to the most – being around a community that has so much love for each other and the campus. It's a feeling like none other, the feeling of home. My advice for future Spartans would be, make use of your time at Upstate. Get involved and get active. Network and make a name for yourself, not just in the school but outside as well.

Dianna Paige Gilfillan  
Haley Brianne Gilstrap  
*Cum Laude*  
Macy Briyana Glisson  
Hamilton Gmah  
Jennifer Gomez  
Sabrina Marie Gonzalez  
Ondrea Rayna Goolsby

Laurel Faith Green  
*Cum Laude*  
Madison Robbins Green  
Amy E. Harris  
Kali Ann Hasselbacher  
Dana Michelle Hasty  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Alandria Haynes

+ Veterans



## SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, HUMAN PERFORMANCE, AND HEALTH

Deborah P. Holbert  
*Cum Laude*  
Sarah Elizabeth Hunt  
Alia Giovanni Hunter  
*Cum Laude*  
Nancy Elizabeth Irwin  
Rachelle Dorcenie Jackson  
Kaleel O'darious Jacobs  
Landon Shamond Jennings  
Ashley Kristen Jones  
*Cum Laude*  
Crystal Maryruth Konopacke  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Laura Koralewicz  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Samuel Dalton Lambert  
Karlie Danielle Lane  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Christa Marie Lawler  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Brianna McKenzie League  
Jada Tylee'A Leonard  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Levi Mckinnley Long  
Olivia Kay Lopez  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Taylor Simone Madden  
Kayla Nicole Mallard  
Charles Dee Mallory \*  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Britny Page Martin  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Melissa B. Martinez  
Natalie Louise McAlister  
*Cum Laude*  
Kansas C. Means  
Christopher Layne Melton  
Katelyn Ann Meneses  
*Cum Laude*

Elizabeth Diane Meredith  
James Patrick Miller  
Talia Zairon Miller  
*Cum Laude*  
Ryan Nicole Morrow  
William Bruce Mullins  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Kristen Nicole Muse  
Abbigail Lyne Nahrng  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Evelyn Michelle Nanna  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Tonya Marie Neshan  
John Darden Neuse Jr \*  
Katharine Grace Overstreet  
Damian Keith Pantucci  
*Cum Laude*  
Morgan Lea Parris  
*Cum Laude*  
Kholby Lawson Pate  
*Cum Laude*  
Elizabeth Ann Marie Payne  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Stone Wesley Pellegrino  
Emilee Grace Phillips  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Jasey Ruth Seaborn Phillips  
Madison Michaela Phipps  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Riley Marie Popplewell  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Katelynn Marie Powell  
Annika Roze Pregenzer  
*Cum Laude*  
Adriana Dawn Price  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Haley LaRae Register  
*Cum Laude*



**REGINALD BROWN**  
B.A., Elementary Education

My fondest memory would be knowing all the people who contributed to and played an integral part in my success here – the administration, faculty, professors, classmates, custodians, groundskeepers, and all the staff in the cafeteria, library, bookstore, financial aid, health services, IT, Wellness Center, and security. I'm very grateful for each and every one of them! My best advice for future Spartans is to keep your focus on the ultimate goal of graduating on time and obtaining your degree.

Joel Keith Robertson II  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Brianne Marie Samuelson  
*Cum Laude*  
Savannah Kailyn Scott  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Savannah Hope Shuler  
*Cum Laude*  
Lindsay Marian Sims  
Benjamin Robert Smith  
Christen Brooke Smith  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Shelby Nicole Smith  
Kierstyn Alysse Snyder  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Savyon Leandro Soriano  
Crystal Joy Spriggs  
*Cum Laude*  
Celina Marissa Sullivan  
Dallas Lee Sweatt  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Lamira Michael Tall  
*Cum Laude*  
Amorí Felicity Taylor  
Hayley Breanna Thompson  
Brittane Nickol Thornton  
*Cum Laude*  
Emily McNeel Timms  
*Cum Laude*  
Savannah Ashlee Tolbert  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Charlesia Janel Tucker  
Benjamin Jacob Vander Meulen  
Kelsey Anne Walker  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Lindsay M. Watson  
*Summa Cum Laude*

Amanda Rose West  
*Cum Laude*  
Kailaan Jael White  
Sarah Elizabeth Williams  
Jaedon Richard Henry Williamson  
Kayla DeAnn Wilson  
Brianna La'Shay Winfield  
Jaclyn Hope Woodall  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Erin Mitchell Wright  
*Cum Laude*  
Reagan Taylor Wyatt  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Dalton Wayne Yates  
Shadara Mahoghany Young



**WILLIAM MULLINS**  
B.S., Exercise Science,  
minor in psychology

My best memory of USC Upstate is freshman year – meeting some guys who would end up being my best friends and roommates all throughout college. Hitting the gym with those guys and everything we did will be something I'll always remember. My best advice for future Spartans would be to have fun, work hard, create relationships, and manage priorities! Work hard day in and day out to achieve what you want and to be successful!

\* Veterans



## UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Alexis Tysiana Adams

Justin Mekhi Bass

Reid Sowerby Bedell

William Blanton

Althea Bonaparte

Thomas Booker

Tierra Monique Bunkley

Allston R. Burnett

Mishell Stefania Cabezas

Taylor L. Cartee

Austin Chitwood

Adam Jacob Ciotta

*Cum Laude*

Nebreika Camyra Cunningham

Victoria Elizabeth Cunningham

*Magna Cum Laude*

Elizabeth McDaniel Dedmon

Alicia Katherine Dorgan

Niki Soraya Dunagin

Makayleigh Connor Eilts

William Brent Ervin

Adrianna-Jule'ah Hope Ferguson

Adam J. Forringer

James A. Foster

Kristina Garrett

James L. Goldsmith III

Savannah Gory

Ashton Nicole Graham

Essence Quintessa Green

Samantha Leigh Greger

Tyler Cameron Gregory

LaMaya Harris

Robert Gene Harris

Sevina Vercarol Hartry

Frederick Jarvis

Weatherly Joyce

Matthew Keith Kapuscinski

Kinsley Briana Kennedy

Paula Kirk

Brianna Lewis

Dominique Tene Lindsey

Kacie Leigh Manning

Gabrielle Nicole Martinez

Ashley Elizabeth Newton

Dillon James Noffsinger

Alyssa Nicole Oakes

*Magna Cum Laude*

Mycheal-Earl Deshun Payden

Brandy Gayle Piddock

*Cum Laude*

Amber Pittman

Shemerika Danielle Rainey

Julian Cal Rip

*Cum Laude*

Victoria Hope Rivest

Christopher Ivan Rodriguez

Andruw Tyler Rollings

Allison Nicole Schweitzer

Koral Bre'onna Scott

Bailey Renee Sharpe

Erik Damon Smith

Taylor Stokes Smith

Kayla Nicole Tolbert

Berdashia Moesha Walls

Theron Immanuel Williams

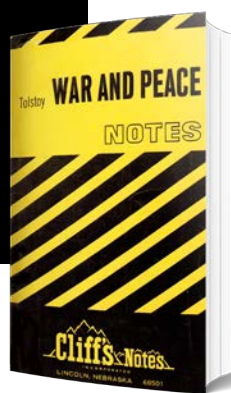
Chiyanna Alicyon Williams

Chassity Wright

Kathryn Elizabeth Wright

\* Veterans





## Provost Clif Flynn Retires

Clifton P. Flynn, provost and senior vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, retires this summer having served USC Upstate for more than 30 years. He was an assistant professor and an associate professor. He was full professor and a department chair. In 2013, he was named associate vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, and he ends his career having served as provost for three years.

A sociologist, Flynn has taught 11 different courses at USC Upstate. He's been published numerous times in peer-reviewed journals and has

served on the editorial boards of others. In 2008, Flynn, who is also an animal ethicist, was named a fellow of the Oxford Center for Animal Ethics in the United Kingdom. He is the author of "Understanding Animal Abuse: A Sociological Analysis."

Flynn is the only person ever to win the USC Upstate Award for Excellence in Scholarly and Creative Pursuits twice, once in 2002 and again in 2009. And now, reflecting on his time at the university, he says he looks forward to more quiet pursuits on his favorite beach.



"I came to what was then USC-Spartanburg immediately after completing my Ph.D. I successfully defended my dissertation on the 4th of August and started at USCS on August 16th as an assistant professor of Sociology. It was important to me to come to a place where teaching was valued and where I would have good colleagues—and it's hard to imagine I could have found a better place. For 32 years, I have had the privilege to be a part of this great University.


For 20 years I avoided being department chair, but in 2008, there were two senior faculty who had not served as chair – myself and Diane Daane, and the expectation was that one of us would and should do it. Well,

she didn't want to do it more that I didn't want to do it, so I agreed to be chair. And surprisingly, I loved it. I think it was because you could achieve small, but tangible victories – helping students and helping faculty achieve their goals. In 2013, the position of Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs was created and I thought, maybe it was time to do something else – and maybe my 25 years of experience would be helpful in that role.

This has been an incredible journey. As I reflect on my time here at USC Upstate, there are obviously many fond memories, but the one thing that particularly stands out is incredible people who work at this place. Most of my interactions over the years have





been with faculty – and our faculty are truly amazing. Their commitment to our students, their understanding of who our students are and the critical importance of higher education to changing not only their lives but their families' lives, is impressive and inspiring. But that's true of almost everyone who works here – not just faculty. Across this campus, the people make this place special. And because it is special, students can come here and discover their dreams and go on to live productive, meaningful lives – enriching their communities wherever they may be. I am very fortunate to have had the privilege to spend my career at a place that really does create transformative opportunities for our students.” 



“I saw a quote many years ago when someone was moving for a new job and it rings true in this situation. It goes, 'I like the feeling of finding it difficult to say goodbye to someone because it means I have found a true friend.' I will miss my colleague and lunch buddy.”

**Sheryl Turner-Watts**

*Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration*

“Having worked with Clif for 28 years, I know him as much more than Provost. Students described his classes as interesting, challenging, and enjoyable, and Clif was engaged and excited about teaching. He was well known in the community for his work with family violence agencies. His scholarship is well respected in the field, and through the years he became an internationally recognized scholar in the field of animal welfare. Clif says that he didn't enter academia with the intent to go into administration, and in fact entered it as a service to his department, but he soon discovered that he enjoyed administrative work. Clif, enjoy retirement!”

**Diane Daane**

*Distinguished Professor Emerita*

“Clif Flynn brought honesty, integrity, and a healthy dose of good humor to the day-to-day operation of the academic side of the house. It was a pleasure working closely with him through the years, and especially so during the years leading up to my own retirement. His record of accomplishment stands on judicious and strategic decision making, informed by a sense of humanity and good will.”

**Warren Carson**

*Distinguished Professor Emeritus*



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