



Chancellor's Corner



Dr. Susan A. Elkins, Chancellor
USC Palmetto College

Happy holidays to all! I wish each of you and yours a wonderful holiday season.

As we wrap up the semester, it's great to share many success stories of students, faculty, and staff with you from across the campuses and our online degree completion programs through this newsletter! We could certainly fill many more pages to showcase the outstanding efforts of our Palmetto College family, so please continue to submit stories as you have good news to share in the future.

As our top priority, I'm delighted to share the continued positive news on Fall Semester 2016 enrollment.

As of fall census on Oct. 25, the Palmetto College overall headcount enrollment for the campuses was up from the same day last year by 7.56% (from 4,301 to 4,626) and FTE enrollment was up 5.14% (from 2,901 to 3,050) over Fall Semester 2015, resulting in – by far – the largest percentage increases of all the USC campuses.

In addition to the associate degree enrollment, the Palmetto College Online degree completion headcount

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USC Palmetto College earns 2016 ACHE Distinguished Credit Program Award

The University of South Carolina Palmetto College received the **2016 ACHE Distinguished Credit Program Award** at the 78th Annual Association for Continuing Higher Education (ACHE) Conference, held October 2016 in New Orleans, La., in the French Quarter's historic Hotel Monteleone.

USC Palmetto College earned the award for the collaborative nature of its online degree programs from USC Aiken, USC Beaufort, USC Columbia and USC Upstate to provide an accessible, affordable and flexible USC education to those seeking to complete a bachelor's degree online.

The theme of this year's ACHE conference was "Innovation, Transformation and Service in Continuing Higher Education: Creating Pathways to the Future." Conference attendees included 127 universities, colleges, exhibitors, related associations and



Associate Provost Chris Nesmith and USC Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins receive the 2016 ACHE Distinguished Credit Program Award at 78th annual ACHE Conference in New Orleans, La.

other organizations.

ACHE bills itself on its website as a "dynamic network of diverse professionals who are dedicated to promoting excellence in continuing higher education and to sharing their expertise and experience with one another."



USC Union student receives Purple Heart medal

USC Union student **Alex Chapman** was recently presented with the Purple Heart medal for injuries sustained from an IED during his 2011 combat tour in Afghanistan. The presentation was made at an Upstate military appreciation ceremony in Fall 2016 that included a flyover by A-10 Thunderbolt IIs assigned to the 74th Fighter Squadron. After he completes his education, he wants to pursue a career as a game warden with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources.

Spotlight on Philanthropy

Boyd establishes endowed scholarship fund to honor late colleague

After a personal tragedy, **Harriett Hurt** decided she wanted to do something more with her life. She knew her plans to make a difference in the lives of others would require her to earn a college degree first.

So at age 47, Hurt got accepted to USC Columbia as a nontraditional student. It didn't take long for people to notice her passion and positive attitude.

"I met Harriett through a friend," explains **Sally Boyd**, former assistant vice provost of regional campuses and continuing education. "Learning through my friend that Harriett was establishing a stellar academic record while at the same time totally engaging in her university experience as an older student, I suggested that if she ever entered graduate school, I would love to offer her an assistantship in what was then Adult Student Services."

Adult Student Services advised and advocated for older students returning to school or entering for the first time. When Hurt entered graduate school, Boyd did give her the assistantship, which upon graduation turned into a full-time adviser position. Eventually, Hurt became director of the office.

"For many years," Boyd says, "Harriett Hurt was the face known as the friend to adult students seeking opportunity at USC."



Harriett Hurt

During a huge period of growth at USC, the Back to Carolina program was begun to invite students who had left school to return and complete a degree. In addition, online programs were put in place;

mattered the most to me."

To honor Hurt, Boyd, who has also championed the causes of nontraditional

students as well as regional campuses and women's and gender studies, has started the **Harriett Hurt Endowed Scholarship Fund** to help nontraditional students pursue a degree of their own.

Thanks to the fund, Hurt's impact will still be felt by future generations of nontraditional students.

It's a legacy Hurt would surely appreciate.



Sally Boyd

Sally Boyd, who has championed the causes of nontraditional students as well as regional campuses and women's and gender studies, has started the Harriett Hurt Endowed Scholarship Fund, in honor of her late colleague, to help nontraditional students pursue degrees of their own.

About USC Palmetto College Connections

Newsletter Committee

Jean Carrano, Jay Darby, Melody Lehn, Summer Yarborough

This Issue's Contributors

Jane Brewer, Jean Carrano, Chris DeWolf, Shana Dry, Susan Elkins, Misty Hatfield, Annie Smith, Connie Vise, Lori Vargo, Summer Yarborough

Please submit all items for the Spring 2017 issue by Tuesday, April 4, 2017.

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

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

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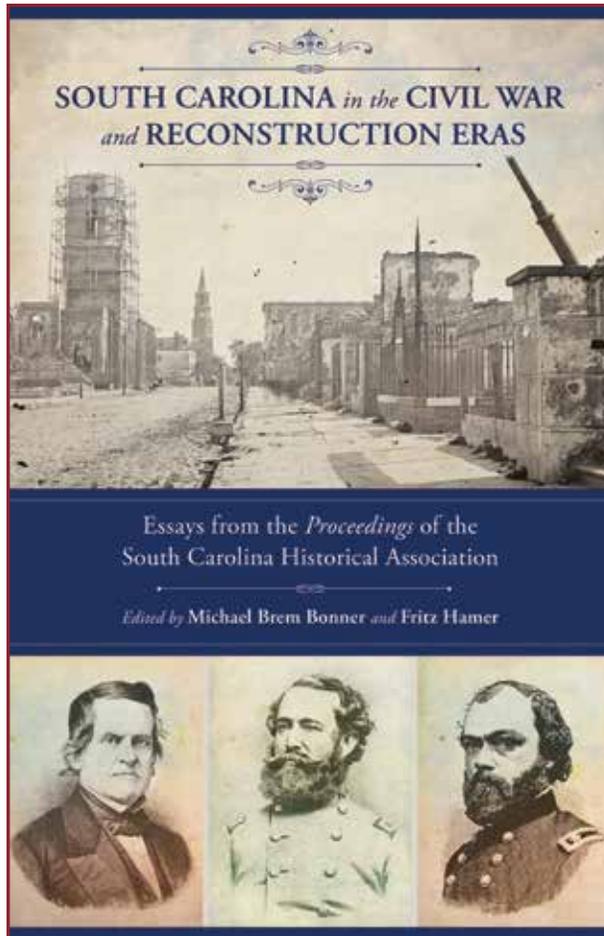
Spotlight on Scholarship

USC Lancaster professor co-edits collection of articles on Civil War and Reconstruction era South Carolina

USC Palmetto College Campuses faculty continue to publish research to advance their respective disciplines. **Michael Brem Bonner**, an assistant professor of history at USC Lancaster, has worked with other members of the South Carolina Historical Association to publish an anthology of their scholarly articles and essays related to the U.S. Civil War and the subsequent Reconstruction era.

South Carolina in the Civil War and Reconstruction Eras: Essays from the Proceedings of the South Carolina Historical Association is an anthology of the most enduring and important scholarly articles about the Civil War and Reconstruction era published in the peer-reviewed journal *Proceedings of the South Carolina Historical Association* (SCHA). Past SCHA officers Bonner and Fritz Hamer, curator of history and archivist at the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum, selected 23 essays from the several hundred published since 1931 to create a treasure trove of scholarship on an impressive variety of subjects including race, politics, military events and social issues.

The volume is divided by topic into five subsections. “The Politics of Secession and Civil War” stimulates thought on many of the era’s leading political figures and their respective policies, and “On the Battlefield” describes the effects of war on soldiers and



civilians. Several historians investigate the people and institutions of Southern society at war in “On the Home Front.” Dan T. Carter addresses the impact of emancipation on the South in the early stages of Reconstruction in

“Emancipation, Race, and Society.” The essays in “The Politics of Reconstruction” investigate the contentious end of Reconstruction in South Carolina.

All articles published in the proceedings after 2002 are available on the SCHA Web site – <http://scha1931.org>, but this volume offers for the first time easy access to the journal’s best articles on the Civil War and Reconstruction up through 2001. Preeminent scholars such as Frank Vandiver, Dan T. Carter and Orville Vernon Burton are among the contributors to this collection, which should reinvigorate interest in a new historical synthesis of the Palmetto State’s experience during that era.

Michael Brem Bonner is the author of *Confederate Political Economy* and served as president of the South Carolina Historical Association from 2015 to 2016.

In addition to work as curator of history and archivist at the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum, his co-editor Fritz Hamer previously held posts at the South Carolina State Museum and the South Caroliniana Library at the University of South Carolina.

South Carolina in the Civil War and Reconstruction Eras: Essays from the Proceedings of the South Carolina Historical Association. Edited by Michael Brem Bonner and Fritz Hamer. Published September 2016. 280 pages. University of South Carolina Press.

USC Palmetto College Campuses welcome new faculty hires

USC Lancaster

Patrick Lawrence

Assistant Professor, English
Ph.D. in English, University of Connecticut

Mike Sherrill

Instructor, Economics
MBA, University of South Carolina

Brooke Bauer

Visiting Assistant Professor,
Native American Studies
Ph.D. in History, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

USC Salkehatchie

Nicole Ramirez

Instructor, Spanish
M.A. in Spanish, M.A. in French and MBA,
University of Mississippi

USC Sumter

Bianca Rowlett

Assistant Professor, History
Ph.D. in History, University of Arkansas

USC Union

Andrew Pisano

Assistant Professor, English
Ph.D. in English, University of North Carolina Greensboro

USC Union Bantams Athletics joins National Junior College Athletics Association

The University of South Carolina Union is proud to announce that **USC Union Bantam Athletics** is now officially affiliated with the National Junior College Athletic Association and will compete as a **Division I NJCAA** institution.

Competing with a specific division of an NJCAA-sponsored sport comes with specific policies, guidelines and scholarships. A student-athlete must be in good academic standing, in good health and must be an amateur who has not exhausted his or her eligibility.

The baseball team will be coached by Keith “Jap” Worthy and will compete in the National Club Baseball Association (NCBA). Coach Worthy has already recruited 25 students for the team and they are eager to begin the season.

USC Union has added a Lady Bantam softball team that will be coached by Amanda Warley, who joins the Bantams Athletics program from Florence-Darlington Technical College where that team was ranked 14th nationally among NJCAA

institutions. Both teams are composed of in-state and out-of-state students.

Even though the baseball and softball teams have been practicing, their initial NCJAA regular seasons will not begin until Fall 2017.

The USC Union Bantams Athletics program received an initial Grand Slam Level sponsorship from **Arthur State Bank**.

Barbara Rippy, a proud supporter of USC Union, recently presented a check to USC Union Lady Softball team’s coach Amanda Warley and members of the softball team as a Grand Slam Level sponsor.

The USC Union Bantams Athletics program is still accepting sponsorships that will be used to help the teams with travel expenses, uniforms, hosting tournaments and equipment.

For more information about USC Union athletic sponsorship opportunities, please contact Annie Smith at (864) 424-8055 or via email at alsmith@mailbox.sc.edu.

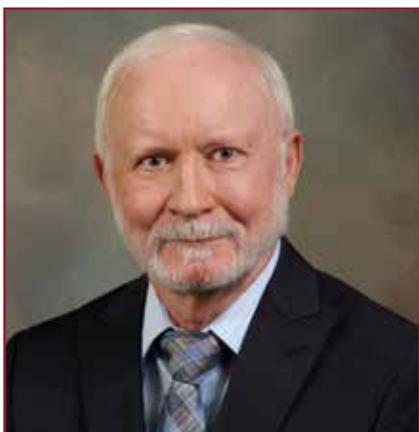


Carlisle Oxner III, President and CEO of Arthur State Bank, presents a \$2000 check to Annie Smith, USC Union’s Public Relations & Development Director, as the first sponsor for the USC Union Bantam Athletics.



Barbara Rippy, a proud supporter of USC Union, presents a \$2000 Grand Slam Bantam Sponsorship check to USC Union Lady Softball team’s coach Amanda Warley and members of the softball team.

Scholarship established in memory of former USC Union dean



Attorney Everett Hope Garner has established a scholarship in honor of his mentor Dr. Gilbert S. Guinn, a former USC Union dean.

A \$10,000.00 endowed scholarship in memory of Dr. Gilbert S. Guinn has been established at USC Union by Columbia attorney **Everett Hope Garner**.

Dr. Guinn served as resident director (dean) and history professor at USC Union from 1966 to 1970. Afterward, he served in various academic capacities at Lander University until his retirement.

During his tenure at USC Union, Dr. Guinn nurtured the young branch campus and served as a willing mentor to numerous members of the student body.

He had an abiding interest in history – especially military history – and authored a number of books and other papers on the subject.

He was viewed as a mentor by Garner who was a student at USC Union from 1966 to 1968.

Garner graduated with a history degree from USC Columbia and a Juris Doctor from the USC Law School. He currently works as a lawyer in private practice in Columbia.

Dr. Guinn was born in Camden, S.C., on March 27, 1929, and died on April 30, 2014. He is survived by his widow, Dr. Susan Guinn of Greenwood, S.C.

The **Dr. Gilbert S. Guinn Scholarship** will help a deserving student attend USC Union by providing scholarship funds each semester. The scholarship award will be based on student performance and financial need.

Spotlight on Students

Alyssa Centeno, USC Lancaster nursing student

Alyssa Centeno is a nursing student at USC Lancaster, and anticipates a May 2017 graduation.

Shana Dry (USC Lancaster) recently interviewed Centeno about her experiences at USC Lancaster and how those experiences are influencing her future professional aspirations.

What led you to choose USC Lancaster?

I chose USCL because it's very affordable. It's close to home, so I didn't have to move away. I have saved money while at USCL, because I haven't had to take out student loans, whereas if you were to go to other campuses, you would most likely have to. I will leave here debt free.

What's your favorite part of USC Lancaster?

I just like how small it is and how you feel like you know everybody. It's not intimidating like a larger campus would be, having no idea where you are and not knowing as many people. It's like a family. Everyone knows everyone.



*Alyssa Centeno
USC Lancaster nursing student*

How have you felt supported during your time at USC Lancaster?

The professors are more available to you and they actually know who you are, because the classes are smaller. They're there to help you and they care. They're always available, no matter what. They tell me to call them, text them, stop by their office and they always have time for you.

What are some of the benefits you feel you have received as a nursing student at USC Lancaster?

The professors are always available and they know who you are. They are always there to help when you need it and they want to get to know you. You form a bond. I still keep in touch with professors that I have had in the past and they are always there to help prepare for exams and answer questions. Because the campus is smaller, you just really get to know the professors and form that bond.

How has USC Lancaster prepared you for your future educational and career goals?

I'm a nursing student so it's been very hard. The workload is just as hard as if I were to go to any other campus. We actually just got a new simulation lab, giving us more access to perform more hands-on activities. If we didn't have that facility, we wouldn't be able to perform simulations on our campus. We would have to travel, so we wouldn't be able to do it as frequently. Simulation lab prepares you for clinicals, so if we didn't have one, we wouldn't have the ability to practice before going to the hospitals and doing it on our own and on a real person. I feel very prepared, more relaxed, and less scared heading into the field.

Spotlight on Alumni

Antonio Evans, USC Salkehatchie alumnus

USC Salkehatchie alumnus **Antonio Evans** has motivated, educated and empowered residents in the metropolitan Charlotte, N.C., area to live healthier lifestyles through his business, ReShape Fitness LLC.

Evans founded ReShape Fitness as a mobile fitness business in July 2005 to meet the health and fitness needs of a changing society. He believes that physical change starts with mental change and that is why all of his programs are based on mental conditioning, physical training and nutrition.

Evans excels in training groups and conducting fitness bootcamps. He also provides private training to some of Charlotte's top executives and CEOs, and he consults with local and national companies and higher education institutions.

The South Carolina native attended USC Salkehatchie and USC Aiken, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science. Evans was an All-Region and All-Conference baseball player and attributes physical fitness to much of his success on the field.

interviewed Evans about his experiences as a USC Salkehatchie student and how those experiences have influenced his current professional endeavors.

What was USC Salkehatchie like when you were a student?

I have so many great stories and fond memories from my time at Salk. As a student athlete, I remember hanging out at the Greens and making our own fun. Taking a photography class was one of my highlights because I knew nothing about it before, and now I am a lover of great photography work. Some of that includes my own work. My Salk experience was a good one for sure.



Antonio Evans, USC Salkehatchie and USC Aiken alumnus

How has the Salkehatchie experience helped you both professionally and personally?

It gave me a great foundation for my education and athletic career. I developed relationships that I still have 20 years later. It taught me how to be independent and think for myself. I also learned how to adapt to life during my two years in Allendale. I had to buy groceries and prepare my own meals. That is preparation for the real world and I am grateful for it.

Any advice for incoming freshman?

Enjoy your college experience. Build relationships that money can't buy. Take a chance daily and learn from everything and everyone. You don't need a lot to be happy. Life is sure to throw you a few curve balls so be prepared to adjust.

Spotlight on Students

Rebekah Davis, USC Sumter alumna



As a USC Sumter student, Rebekah Davis served as the campus mascot, “Blaze the Fire Ant” (above), for two years. She wore the costume’s “feet” as she accepted her degree (left), and she’s currently completing a bachelor’s degree through USC Palmetto College Online.

To say **Rebekah Davis** was involved at USC Sumter would be an understatement.

She served as USC Sumter’s mascot, “Blaze the Fire Ant,” for two years and was the first student to cross the stage at commencement wearing the “feet.”

When it came time to continue her

education, Davis chose USC Palmetto College Online for a variety of reasons. “Palmetto

“Palmetto College offered the two fields of study I wanted (psychology and sociology) in one degree.”

College offered the two fields of study I wanted (psychology and sociology) in one degree,”

she said. “Plus, it’s like being a member of the family here; there are no strangers on campus.”

Although she could have transferred to an institution in another community, Davis chose to remain in Sumter to finish her degree so she could continue to

work and enjoy the flexibility USC Palmetto College has to offer.

USC Sumter maintains high community involvement in 2016

USC Sumter was named 2016 Readers’ Choice Winner for “Best College” by readers of *The Item*. This was the 14th year USC Sumter has won this honor.

USC Sumter also received the “Military Friendly School” designation for 2017 by Victory Media. This is the third consecutive year for the designation.

Nineteen University 101 students partnered with the local middle school to serve as mentors for the Fall 2016 semester, serving more than 40 students total.

Student-athletes volunteered more than 500 hours of community service so far this year with projects ranging from Hurricane Matthew assistance to picking up trash on the highway to serving as zombies for the City of Sumter’s annual Halloween weekend festivities.



Student-athletes volunteered as zombies for the City of Sumter’s Halloween weekend.

The importance of internships

Back in Fall 2015, USC Palmetto College student **Adam Fenno** decided to take a few minutes out of his tremendously busy work and academic schedule to make a connection with a representative from Becton, Dickinson & Co. (BD) at USC Sumter's Pre-Professional Day event held on campus. The connection paid off in a big way for him this summer.

Fenno started a conversation with **Christopher Floyd**, lead business unit coordinator at BD's Sumter facility and a USC Sumter alumnus.

"I saw a little of myself in Adam on that day," Floyd said.

After discussing a possible internship program, Floyd came back to BD to pitch the idea of providing students in a bachelor's program experience at the plant.

BD Plant Manager Kevin Johnson was on board with the program. "The BD Sumter plant is excited about establishing this new internship partnership. This pipeline will provide career-shaping opportunities for talented, local students and will provide BD with the ability to find future leaders."

"BD is committed to working with local institutions of higher education to foster the development of soon-to-be graduates, helping them move forward while gaining high-level exposure and opportunity," Floyd said.

"BD sees an internship program as a win-win for both our company and the intern."

According to Floyd, the goal at BD is to ensure that the information the student is

learning academically can be translated to the practice of real-life applications and exposure. BD wants the interns to not only gain experience from the program but be in a position in their academic career to give back to the company as well.

"As a Palmetto College Student, I wanted to find an internship program that provided upward mobility and leadership potential; BD will do that for me," Fenno said.

Fenno will graduate in December 2016 with a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership. He is the nontraditional student who took a little longer path to graduation, but appreciates the ending more than most.

"I struggled my first year of college and took



*Adam Fenno, USC Sumter alumnus/
USC Palmetto College student*

Palmetto College Campus Dean Dr. Michael Sonntag said. "We hope that the program grows and interns turn into employees for BD."

BD plans to identify the top-tier students early on through networking events on the USC Sumter campus. Students will need to be able to devote time to the program to learn the proper skills and be able to give in return.

BD has played a key role in ensuring the students are compensated for their time and feel like a member of the team while they are in the internship program.

"We look forward to helping educate students who want something bigger and better," Floyd said. "The opportunities I

received at USC Sumter and in the Palmetto College program provided a strong foundation for the position I hold today."

"As a Palmetto College Student, I wanted to find an internship program that provided upward mobility and leadership potential; BD will do that for me."

some time off to really figure out what I wanted to do and who I was," Fenno said. His grades went from extremely poor to now making the Dean's and President's Lists while also working



A 50th anniversary time capsule was buried in the Anderson Library Garden in November 2016 to be opened for the USC Sumter campus centennial in 2066.

USC Sumter celebrates 50 years

The year 2016 marked the 50th anniversary of academic excellence at USC Sumter.

In late January, USC Sumter kicked off the 50th Anniversary festivities with a statue dedication outside the Science Building on campus. The statue, a bright red fire ant, was created through a partnership between USC Sumter and the Welding Program at Central Carolina Technical College.

In addition to the statue, USC Sumter created a special logo and flag pole banners across the campus to recognize the anniversary throughout the community this past year.

A special Donor Gala was held in the fall to honor those who have given to the university at certain levels over the past 50 years. The university also created a unique historical video that documents the past 50 years based on stories from alumni and former and current faculty, staff and students.

At the annual convocation Ceremony, USC Sumter unveiled a history display that is a permanent fixture in the Nettles building.

To sum up the year, a time capsule was buried in the Anderson Library Garden in November to be opened in the year 2066.

Spotlight on Faculty

Dr. Bryan Lai, USC Salkehatchie math professor

Dr. Bryan Lai is more than a math professor to his students at USC Salkehatchie; he also helps them navigate life, including the holidays.

Lai is one of two full-time math professors at USC Salkehatchie. He teaches all levels, from algebra up to calculus sequences. “I teach 21 credits for the academic year; most classes are for three credits, so it’s seven courses per year in general,” he said.

A native of Taichung, Taiwan, Lai – whose birth name is Wei-Kai Lai – is the son of two retired high school math teachers.

After earning his bachelor’s degree at National Taiwan University and master’s degree at National Taiwan Normal University (both are in Taipei, the capital of Taiwan), Lai earned his doctorate in mathematics from the University of Mississippi.

He experienced a degree of culture shock, going from a large city in Taiwan to a small college town in the Deep South.

While earning his Ph.D., Lai taught two classes per semester, for which the school waived his tuition. He taught at Ole Miss for a total of four years, then started looking for positions at other colleges.

“I applied to almost 200 schools and USC Salkehatchie was the first school that invited me for a campus interview,” he said.

He was impressed by the campus’ commitment to excellence and liked the small class size. Seven-and-a-half-years later, “The more I teach here at USC Salkehatchie, the better I love this job,” he says.

“When you’re teaching and you see that bolt of lightning, when they finally realize how to solve a problem, that’s really rewarding,” Lai said.

He also enjoys helping students launch independent study opportunities. “I will find a



Bryan Lai, USC Salkehatchie

or publish a paper. When they’re successful, all the hard work is worth it.”

He also serves as advisor for international students on campus. “Because I was an international student once, I know it can be very hard, even at a small school,” he said. “I was thinking it was time to pay it forward.”

Since 2009, he’s helped students from foreign countries by assisting them with transportation, inviting them to his home for the holidays, even filing taxes.

In his downtime, Lai, who lives in Walterboro with his wife, Annie (Chih-Tin Chen) enjoys the occasional game of ping-pong and loves to sing. He’s a member of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra Chorus, participating in at least four performances each year. Lai also serves as music director at his church, St. Anthony’s Catholic Church.

“When you’re teaching and you see that bolt of lightning, when they finally realize how to solve a problem, that’s really rewarding.”

This article first appeared in *The Press and Standard* in Walterboro, S.C., and is reprinted with permission.

topic for them to work on, then try to find an opportunity for them to present at a conference



2016 Sumter faculty achievements

- **Dr. Ray McManus** (pictured), associate professor of English, was a two-time finalist for the Jasper Artists of the Year (JAY) in literary arts. McManus was also named the Fall 2016 Second Quarter Scholar for his work on his latest book, *Found Anew: Poetry and Prose Inspired by the South Caroliniana Library Digital Collections*.
- **Dr. Mary Ellen Bellanca**, associate professor of English, was appointed for a three-year term to the R.J. “Chic” Mathis Professorship of Arts and Letters at USC Sumter, effective Aug. 16, 2016.
- **Dr. Salvador Macias III**, psychology professor, was appointed for a three-year term to the Williams-Brice-Edwards Professorship of Social Sciences at USC Sumter, effective Aug. 16, 2016.

Spotlight on Alumni

Angelia Cook-Sloop, Palmetto College Online alumna

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

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

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

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



Angelia Cook-Sloop (pictured above with Dr. Randy Lamkin) recently earned a Bachelor of Science in Human Services degree from USC Beaufort via USC Palmetto College Online.



Lymeisha Dickerson, Palmetto College Online alumna



Lymeisha Dickerson, USC Beaufort

Lymeisha Dickerson reached her graduation goal with perhaps the strongest evidence of perseverance and persistence among Human Services students; she began her college education in 1988.

Prior to enrolling in USC Palmetto College Online, Dickerson attended two other colleges.

Her words of wisdom about finishing her degree was “Never give up. Failure is not an option.”

Dickerson has been working full-time to provide for her family throughout her studies in the USC Beaufort program.

She has said that there are three important people that helped inspire her to continue

her education across a 28-year span and reach her baccalaureate destination: (1) her mother Maggie J. Culp; (2) the poet Maya Angelou; and (3) her 13-year-old daughter Maya, named for the famous author.

Dickerson, while still working full-time, continues to volunteer at the agency where she completed her last internship in Rock Hill, S.C. The agency – Renew Our Community (ROC) – provides basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter to needy families in her community.

Because her father is a U.S. Army veteran, she aspires to have a career working in veterans affairs.

Spotlight on Faculty

USC Palmetto College Online launches new slate of commercials



A new set of USC Palmetto College Online commercials are slated to begin airing in January 2017. Three of the four new ads profile three different types of students who explain why the online degree completion programs suit their needs better than a traditional brick-and-mortar campus.

The first spot features a traditional college-aged mechanic who wants to keep working in her father's shop while finishing a bachelor's degree to gain the business acumen to operate her own shop. The second spot features a middle-aged mother who cannot leave her family or community to complete a bachelor's degree at a distant institution. The third spot features a gray-haired firefighter who needs to complete a bachelor's degree to obtain a promotion in rank. The fourth spot is a montage of the first three with a voiceover detailing many of the reasons why completing a bachelor's degree online through USC Palmetto College might prove beneficial to prospective students.

View a playlist of the new USC Palmetto College Online commercials on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxdqAM2dyE8zzUlrInFPWESR5zU5Aj4nq>.

The new commercials succeed an initial four-commercial campaign that launched in 2014, and supplemented by two additional commercials in early 2015. A playlist of the first six USC Palmetto College Online commercials can be viewed on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxdqAM2dyE8wcZgirp9SNh93HEFM-mDnff>.

Those first commercials have earned national higher education and international broadcast awards. In 2014, the first four commercials, in conjunction with five radio spots, earned an UPCEA Excellence in Marketing Award (Gold) from one of the nation's leading associations providing advocacy and information related to professional, online and continuing education programs.

In 2015, all six television broadcast commercials in the first campaign claimed high honors at the 36th Annual Telly Awards; the Telly Award is the premier award honoring the finest film and video productions, groundbreaking web commercials, videos and films, and outstanding local, regional and cable TV commercials and programs. The USC Palmetto College commercials earned the Silver Telly Award in the category of "Regional TV & Multi-Market Cable – Campaign – Business-to-Consumer" from among 12,000 entries from all 50 states and numerous countries.

The four new TV spots will run in prime time and prime access on cable networks statewide through 2018. All ten commercials to-date were produced by Dust of the Ground, an award-winning film production company composed of USC young alumni, in conjunction with creative minds within USC Palmetto College marketing and USC Creative Services.

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enrollment as of that same day was 806, compared to a final headcount last fall of 751, for a 7% increase.

The total headcount for all Palmetto College Campuses coupled with headcount in the online degree completion programs and the on-campus

degree completion partnership programs was 5,590 compared to 5,201 from last year. Of course, the corresponding revenue increases that accompany the enrollment increases are certainly a welcome addition to the financial bottom line, as well. Congratulations to everyone on

these excellent results!

Also, this year our SACSCOC Fifth-Year Interim Report will be submitted in March 2017. Dr. David Hunter continues to lead this effort on our behalf, working closely with the deans, academic deans and others across Palmetto College. Let's please show our

appreciation to Dr. Hunter and everyone involved for their efforts in leading this critical project.

Finally, it is such a privilege to work with all of you as we serve students across this great state. Thank you for all that you do!

Spotlight on Service

USC Union's University 101 students raise \$3,197.64 for The Walk to End Alzheimer's Disease



Bobby Holcombe, USC Union financial aid director and University 101 instructor

This past Oct. 22 marked the fifth consecutive year that USC Union University 101 classes participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer's.

The University encourages community service projects and **Bobby Holcombe**, USC Union financial aid director and University 101 instructor, selected this worthy cause.

Holcombe states, "We are all unknowingly at risk for this disease. Alzheimer's does not profile one specific region, race, age or gender. When it attacks, it strikes with vengeance. I want victims and caretakers to be aware of the services and resources that are offered to Union County residents."

This is a special walk for Bobby Holcombe himself. His father suffered from Alzheimer's for many years prior to his death in 2014.

The Alzheimer's Association of Spartanburg provides many resources and assistance to

residents of Union, Cherokee and Spartanburg Counties.

This semester, USC Union's University 101 classes raised \$3,197.64 towards the Walk to End Alzheimer's. This includes proceeds from the 2016 Miss USC Union Pageant that was held March 2016 and contributions received throughout the year. Holcombe states, "I am pleased that USC Union's University 101, with the help of the community, continues to make such a significant contribution to help find a cure for this disease."

The USC Union University 101 class placed second among 95 teams this year, and since participating in 2011 they have been in the top 10 teams each year raising a total of nearly \$16,000.00.

Holcombe adds "with the community's help, University 101 can continue to be in the top 10 and hopefully number one in 2017!"



USC Fort Jackson open house connects Extended University faculty and prospective students

The USC Fort Jackson Program hosted an October 2016 open house for soldiers and on-post personnel at the Army Continuing Education Services (ACES) Center.

At the event, program personnel like Fort Jackson Program Director **Connie Vise** and Academic Adviser **Shirley Brown** (pictured above with soldiers) were joined by Extended University faculty to chat with current and prospective students about the post-based program and USC Palmetto College Online.

The USC Fort Jackson Program,

established in the 1970s, hosts on-post degree programs to soldiers, veterans, dependents, Department of Defense personnel and civilians. Program offerings include the Associate of Science degree, Associate of Arts degree and Bachelor of Arts in Experimental Psychology. And, students who begin the program can continue their education on USC Palmetto College Online.

Fort Jackson, which will celebrate its centennial on June 2, 2017, is the nation's largest army basic training facility. About 45,000 soldiers graduate from basic training at the post each year.

Cruise brings study abroad opportunity to students at USC Palmetto College Campuses

Students from USC Lancaster, USC Salkehatchie, USC Sumter, USC Union and Extended University will have an opportunity to study abroad in Europe for credit this upcoming May 2017.

Dr. Susan Cruise, an assistant professor of sociology at USC Lancaster, has organized a Summer I Study Abroad Trip as a USC Palmetto College course so that students at all campuses will have an opportunity to participate.

The course, which is offered through *Education First: College Study Tours*, will provide students with a historical tour of selected destinations in the United Kingdom, France and The Netherlands. Touring highlights on the ten-day excursion include: Trafalgar Square, Big Ben, Houses of Parliament and Windsor Castle in London; Champs-Elysees, Arc de Triomphe, Eiffel Tower and Versailles in Paris; and the Anne Frank House, Koninklijk Paleis and city canals in Amsterdam.

For more information about the program, contact Susan Cruise at scruise@sc.edu.



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