



## Chancellor's Corner



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

It's that exciting time of year – time to celebrate at the commencement ceremonies of our Palmetto College Campuses graduates at Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter and Union – as well as our Palmetto College Online students from their respective four-year campuses. We also have much more to celebrate as a Palmetto College community!

First, I'm delighted to share the positive news on Spring 2017 semester enrollment. Overall headcount enrollment for the campuses was 3,956 – up by 1.62% from last spring, and FTE was 2,674 – matching the Spring 2016 semester. The increase in headcount was the largest headcount increase of all the USC campuses, with Columbia having an increase of 1.16% and the comprehensive campuses having a decrease of 2.27%. From the FTE perspective, USC Columbia had an increase of 0.68% and the comprehensive campuses had a decrease of 0.32%. Also, enrollment in Palmetto College Online was up 13.7% from 751 last spring to 854 this spring.

*Chancellor's Corner, continued page 10*

## Duffy and Plyler Awards announced

### Inaugural Denise R. Shaw Excellence in Scholarship Award also presented

At this year's Palmetto College Campuses Spring Faculty Senate meeting at USC Salkehatchie, the 2017 recipients of the John J. Duffy Excellence in Education Award and the Chris P. Plyler Excellence in Service Award were announced. The meeting also marked the inaugural presentation of the Denise R. Shaw Excellence in Scholarship Award, which is named for the late academic coordinator and associate professor of English and women's studies at USC Union.

The Duffy teaching award has been presented annually since 2009 to a faculty member who exemplifies excellence in and out of the classroom.

The **John J. Duffy Excellence in Teaching Award for Palmetto College Campuses** was presented to **Jill Castiglia**, chemistry instructor and lab manager at USC Lancaster.

She has received excellent reviews from students and peers. Castiglia, who has taught chemistry at secondary and post-secondary institutions for over 20 years, has strengthened her own teaching by becoming a student again. She is using the opportunity to gain a new perspective on her own teaching and learning, and she's been able to refine her own instruction style to avoid "stagnation."

In addition to teaching five to seven classes, as lab manager she is responsible for chemistry, physics and research labs. And, her work in engaging students does not end at the classroom door. Castiglia is one of the advisers to the USCL Chemistry Club, which hosts Careers in Science

lectures for students and provides demonstrations and hands-on activities for elementary and high school students in the Lancaster community.

The Plyler service award is presented to a faculty member who personifies excellence in service to the campus, university, community and profession. This award was first given in 2015.

The **Chris P. Plyler Excellence in Service Award for Palmetto College Campuses** was presented to **Melody Lehn**, assistant professor of speech communication in Extended University.

She is highly active in service related to faculty governance through the Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate. Lehn has served on five committees, including the adult student learner scholarship award committee and the Palmetto College Connections faculty/staff newsletter committee. She also serves as the Palmetto College representative to the Carolina Core Specialty Team (Effective, Engaged and Persuasive Communication – Speech).

Lehn is also heavily involved in the state disciplinary association of her field, the Carolinas Communication Association. For the association, she has helped to plan a convention, presented papers, reviewed conference submissions and has, most recently, served on the association's executive board. She is the current editor of the *Carolinas Communication Annual*.

She has taken the time to mentor students on the Columbia campus, particularly in her role as



**Jill Castiglia**  
USC Lancaster  
2017 John J. Duffy Excellence  
in Teaching Award



**Melody Lehn**  
Extended University  
2017 Chris P. Plyler Excellence  
in Service Award



**Julia Elliott**  
Extended University  
Inaugural Denise R. Shaw Excellence  
in Scholarship Award

*PC Awards, continued page 11*

# Spotlight on Scholarship

## Bragg's new book explores storytelling and depictions of space and place in 19th Century British fiction

Demonstrating that 19th Century historical novelists played their rational, trustworthy narrators against shifting and untrustworthy depictions of space and place, USC Salkehatchie Associate Professor of English **Tom Bragg** argues in his latest book that the result was a flexible form of fiction that could be modified to reflect both the different historical visions of the authors and the changing aesthetic tastes of the reader.

That new book is entitled *Space and Narrative in the Nineteenth-Century British Historical Novel*.

"The book is a study of the relationship between typical storytelling methods used in historical fiction and the depiction of places and spaces within representative novels," said Bragg, who also serves as chairman of the Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate.

"My thesis is that the historical novelists of this era used their spatial descriptions both to mirror the action of the narration and also to imply or argue forces at work in history beyond the scope of historians or historiography," he added.

*Space and Narrative* focuses on the works of three novelists: Walter Scott (*Ivanhoe*, *Waverley*, *Heart of Midlothian*), William Harrison Ainsworth (*Jack Sheppard*, *Tower of London*), and Edward Bulwer Lytton (*The Last Days of Pompeii*), identifying links between spatial representation and the historical novel's multi-generic

rendering of history and narrative.

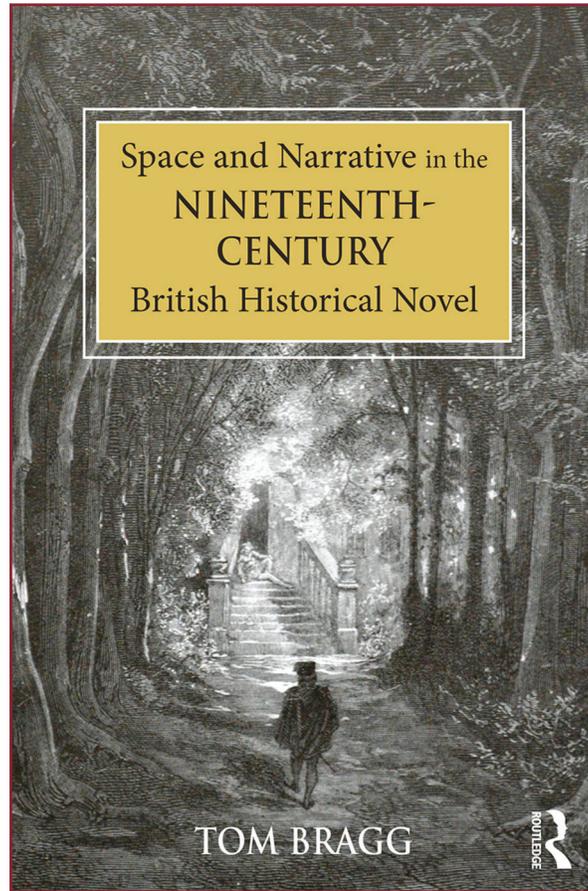
Even though their understanding of history and historical process could not be more

comment beyond the rational, factual narrator's point of view.

Bragg also traces how landscape depictions in all three authors' works inculcated heroic masculine values to show how a dominating theme of the genre endures even through widely differing versions of the form. In taking historical novels beyond the localized questions of political and regional context, Bragg reveals the genre's relevance to general discussions about the novel and its development.

The book argues that understanding the spaces of historical fiction in this way helps criticism see unity in the genre, instead of the critiques based on quality or seriousness that have shaped the criticism so far. The book therefore argues that historical fiction plays more of a part in the development of the novel than is typically acknowledged.

Nineteenth-century readers of the novel understood historical fiction to be epic and serious, moral and healthful, patriotic but also universal. *Space and Narrative in the Nineteenth-Century British Historical Novel* takes this readership at its word and acknowledges the complexity and diversity of the form by examining one of its few continuous features: a flexibly metaphorical valuation of space and place.



different, all writers employed space and place to mirror narrative, stimulate discussion, interrogate historical inquiry, or otherwise

*Space and Narrative in the Nineteenth-Century British Historical Novel*. Written by Tom Bragg. Published 2016. Routledge.

## About USC Palmetto College Connections

**Chancellor's Corner**  
Denise R. Shaw, Chancellor  
USC Palmetto College

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**This Issue's Contributors**  
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Please submit all items for the Fall 2017 issue by Friday, Nov. 10, 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:

### USC Lancaster

Shana Dry – drysf @ mailbox.sc.edu

### USC Salkehatchie

Jane Brewer – jtbrewer @ mailbox.sc.edu

### USC Sumter

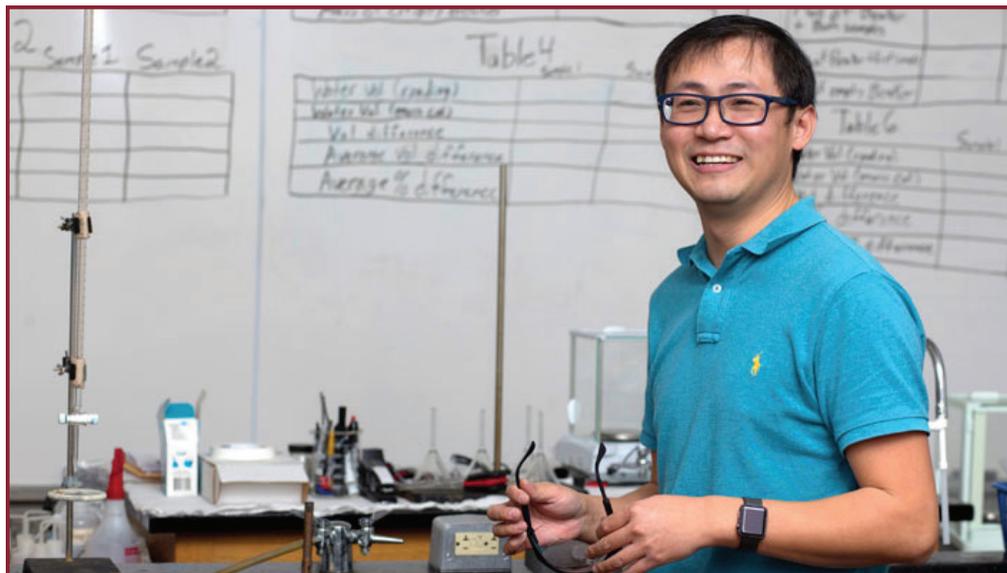
Misty Hatfield – hatfield @ uscsumter.edu

### USC Union

Annie Smith – alsmith @ mailbox.sc.edu

### Online/Ft Jackson/Extended University

Jay Darby – jdarby @ sc.edu



## USC Salkehatchie researcher Li Cai makes time for research, teaching and mentoring – lots of it

By Chris Horn (UofSC Times)

In a normal equation, teaching five college classes plus five labs would equal not much time for anything else. But don't tell **Li Cai** that.

The USC Salkehatchie chemistry associate professor is often teaching and conducting experiments — his expertise is in synthesizing rare sugars. When he's not busy with those activities, he's reviewing manuscripts for 31 scholarly journals; he's also the academic editor for the *International Research Journal of Pure and Applied Chemistry*. Since joining the campus in 2011, Cai has written 22 peer-reviewed journal articles, partnered with Qian Wang at USC Columbia and collaborators in China to conduct cancer-related research and picked up several internal and external research grants on his own.

He's also working to develop an undergraduate research program that could potentially be funded by NSF. No matter what he's involved in, Cai doesn't lose sight of his teaching mission.

"A tiny percentage of our students are advanced and just need a bit of inspiration," he says. "It's the mid-range students who need me most, so I tailor my content to that group."

And while he doesn't try to persuade them to become chemistry majors, Cai does try to show his students that chemistry is a tool to understand other things in the everyday world.

As a faculty member at one of the university's regional campuses, which focus more on teaching, Cai doesn't have an abundance

of resources for research. That's why he has focused on low-cost experiments, feeding bacteria inexpensive materials to produce rare sugars. His expertise with those sugars, which have potential as antibiotics and artificial sweeteners, has led to invited speaker opportunities at academic conferences. Cai has also involved undergraduates in his research.

"It is more challenging supervising undergraduate students than graduates but all my research students were able to participate in independent research projects in the lab," he says. "These students were then able to have their participation documented in scientific publications while also having the opportunity to apply for undergraduate scholarships."

Cai's mentoring of undergraduate research produced the first Magellan Scholar Award in chemistry for USC Salkehatchie as well as two internship awards from the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program.

Retrieved from *UofSC Times* at [http://www.sc.edu/uofsc/posts/2017/02/breakthrough\\_star\\_li\\_cai.php](http://www.sc.edu/uofsc/posts/2017/02/breakthrough_star_li_cai.php)



Access bonus content in this edition of the USC Palmetto College *Connections* newsletter by clicking or scanning any of the QR codes interspersed throughout.

## 2017 USC Palmetto College RISE Grant Recipients

### The Research Initiative for Summer Engagement (RISE)

Grant is a competitive funding program that provides financial support for faculty working at USC's system campuses and online bachelor's degree completion programs to conduct research and scholarly activities during the summer months.

Several USC Palmetto College proposals representing Palmetto College campuses and the online programs were funded for Summer 2017.

### USC Lancaster

**Steven Campbell** – Explaining and Forecasting Leaders' Decision: A Poliheuristic Analysis of the Iran Hostage Rescue Decision

**Sarah Sellhorst and Elizabeth Easley** – Increasing Potential and Widening Horizons: Promoting Undergraduate Research at a Two-Year Regional Campus

**Brooke Bauer** – An Enduring People: Catawba Indian Women and Education

### USC Salkehatchie

**Fidele Ngwame** – On the Construction, Analysis and Implementation of an Energy Conserving Numerical Method for Solving Initial Value Problems

**Rodney Steward** – The Creation of the Southern Rights Party: Secession in North Carolina

**Sarah Miller** – Walterboro's House: History Viewed from Home

### USC Sumter

**Mary Ellen Bellanca** – Unpublished Contextual Materials on Dorothy Wordsworth's Reader Reception

### USC Palmetto College Online

**Shelley AJ Jones** – Mary Robinson's Lyrical Tales: An Electronic Education

A complete list of RISE Grant recipients from the four-year system campuses is available here →



## Spotlight on Service

# PALM 495 course offers real-world service-learning opportunities for on-campus, online students

**PALM 495: Service-Learning** is a course unique among all University of South Carolina campuses. The course, developed and guided through the Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate and the USC Columbia Faculty Senate by **Shelley AJ Jones**, is the sole dedicated service-learning course among the campuses. The course is the curricular equivalent of PALM 494: Internship.

Prior to the creation of service-learning course, students majoring in the Liberal Studies and Organizational Leadership programs were required to complete a 140-hour on-site internship, coupled with an academic course, PALM 494.

“Seeing that many of these students sought degrees for personal or academic – instead of career-related – goals, I developed a service-learning course to meet student need,” said Jones, an assistant professor of English in Extended University.

PALM 495 decreases the number of practicum hours to 40, but also rises to the same rigor as the internship course through more demanding research and writing. The focus of the service-learning course is community engagement rather career preparation.

The pilot, a hybrid course taught during the Fall 2015 semester, centered on the theme of literacy. Over a six-month period and with the aid of a Center for Teaching Excellence Integrated Learning Grant, Jones secured community partnerships with multiple agencies across South Carolina – near the Palmetto College Campus sites. Students engaged in direct service hours at four locations, including: (1) the Lancaster Adult Education Office writing grants and hosting literacy week events; (2) St. Lawrence Place in Columbia developing a teen literacy initiative for their homeless students; (3) Richland County Public Library working on community outreach; and (4) at the South Carolina State Library, students edited audio books for the deaf as part of its Talking Book Services, generated ideas and revised websites for the Day by Day Family Literacy Calendar program and the Literacy 2030 initiative and produced data analysis

dashboards for fundraising and budgetary purposes.

“Knowing that some students’ schedules might disallow on-site hours, I developed projects with two community partners that could be completed digitally,” said Jones. “As anticipated, two students needed to complete the course via asynchronous service. One student from Union even worked with a site located in Columbia.”



**Shelley AJ Jones**  
Associate English Professor  
Extended University

To fully realize the impact she wished this course to make, including offering the course to virtual campus students not located at a physical campus, Jones noted the necessity of transitioning the course

completely online – including all service hours.

“Noticing each semester the problems students encounter with securing internships by set Palmetto College deadlines, I also decided to teach the course as an accelerated offering in the second half of the semester,” added Jones, who recently earned the 2017 Stephen L. Dalton Distinguished Teaching Award from the USC Fort Jackson Program.

Both of these moves required creative

week summer curriculum for their annual summer camp, which is offered as a free childcare, educative service to residents and the surrounding community to support parents’ continued employment.

The Fall II 2016 course focused on student need for emergency aid. PALM 495 students researched how individual universities are lessening barriers to university education by offering aid outside of tuition or housing assistance to their student populations.

Jones divided the class into groups, with each group taking up one of six primary forms of emergency aid recommended by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) as their focus for research and writing. Each group collaboratively produced a ten-page report with sections that summarized the assigned type of emergency aid; acknowledged whether any USC campus currently uses this type of aid; discussed how other university campuses nationally or internationally have successfully or unsuccessfully implemented this type of aid program; developed a plan (including budgetary considerations) for how Palmetto College might implement this type of aid program; and made an overall recommendation as to whether Palmetto College should implement this type of emergency aid.

With the support of the campus deans, Jones has continued this project into the Spring II 2017 session.

Ultimately, the students’ service-learning project will produce an emergency aid plan for Palmetto College – specifically, the Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter, Union and virtual campuses. The new cohort of students is working to fill gaps in research from the previous semester’s work. The scope of that work includes researching

Palmetto College’s access to USC Columbia’s emergency aid programs, studying professional writing conventions and producing a polished, professional report ready to be submitted to Chancellor Elkins and other representative Palmetto College staff, administrators and faculty.

**Prior to the creation of the PALM 495: Service-Learning course, Liberal Studies and Organizational Leadership students were required to complete a 140-hour on-site internship, coupled with an academic course, PALM 494.**

restructuring. Jones transitioned PALM 495 to work with a single community partner and class-wide project for the first online offering in the Spring II 2016 session. The PALM 495 students worked with St. Lawrence Place, a Columbia nonprofit offering temporary housing to those transitioning out of homelessness, to develop their nine-

## Spotlight on Alumni

# Melonee Hayes capitalizes on Palmetto College chance

By Melinda Waldrop (UofSC Times)

People have always told their problems to **Melonee Hayes**, but she never thought she would make a career out of her instinct for empathy.

"People would say, 'You know what? You should be a counselor. You give some pretty good advice,'" Hayes says. "I was like, 'Nah, I want to go into the medical field.'"

That perspective changed as Hayes earned a medical office administration certificate at Midlands Tech, where she also worked in the college's counseling office.

"After I really knew the counselors and how important they were to the students here, I thought, 'I want to do that,'" she says. "I think I have the knack and the skill set. I think I can make a difference."

At first, Hayes wasn't sure how to make that happen. She completed her associate degree while working and providing for her 11-year-old daughter, Jamerica. The thought of obtaining a bachelor's degree seemed daunting.

Then a classmate told her about Palmetto College, the University of South Carolina's online bachelor's degree completion program. Intrigued by the flexible schedule, Hayes enrolled.

Two years later, she'll graduate from USC Beaufort with a degree in human services.

"I'm the first in my family to ever get any degree," says Hayes, 35. "I have my daughter looking up to me, and my nieces and nephews. I have some trying days, but I can't give up."

Hayes has always been determined, even when her future wasn't as clear. With no family history of higher education, college wasn't foremost on her radar as she worked a series of jobs after high school in the Lowcountry.

"I had so many different careers," she says. "I was doing 911 dispatch for the sheriff's office, and I realized, 'I can't do this anymore. This cannot be it.'"

Hayes' father owned his own construction business, and she says she never went without growing up. But seeing the seasonal ups and downs of her dad's career further motivated her

to take the first steps toward greater security at Midlands Tech.

"I just knew there had to be something more out there," she says. "I knew my calling had to be something else."

Najmah Thomas, an assistant professor of human services at USCB, sensed Hayes' drive through the computer screen. Thomas says Hayes was always willing to ask for help – a key component of being a successful online student.

"She would send an email and say, 'I know you're very busy, but I just wanted to get clarification,'" Thomas says. "I had to tell her one time, 'That's what we're here for. You email anytime.' It can feel very lonely there at your computer. You can feel like no one is with you."

Thomas, who is looking forward to meeting Hayes in person at graduation, has a first-hand understanding of such struggles.

"My son was 3 when I started my

understand that from a personal perspective, so it's extremely rewarding to see our students, especially if they're first-generation, reach that milestone.

"Children see mommy's always doing her homework, and now they can see her walk across the stage."

Hayes says Thomas' teaching included helpful real-world examples and frequent encouragement. In addition to the support of family, friends and co-workers, Hayes credits Palmetto College adviser Tara Dakolios with helping her manage her class load and stay on track with her schedule.

"Melonee was very conscientious about making sure that she was balancing everything so that she could be as successful as she could be in her classes along with her personal life," Dakolios says. "She's always very enjoyable and easy to talk to. She's just

got a great personality.

"She stayed on top of everything. She came in and she took care of business. I'm excited to see what her next steps are."

Hayes' immediate future includes starting graduate school in August, a month before Jamerica's baby brother is due to arrive on Sept. 22. She doesn't intend to take five classes a semester this time, though.

"I know my limitations," Hayes says. "I'm not Superwoman."

Some of Hayes' family members, including a niece who has started to talk about following in her educational footsteps, might disagree.

"I'm happy that I have little ones looking up to me now," Hayes says. "I have to keep on going, no matter what."



**Melonee Hayes, '17**, completed her degree in human services from USC Beaufort via Palmetto College Online in two years, despite working full time and raising a daughter.

**"I just knew there had to be something more out there. I knew my calling had to be something else."**

– Melonee Hayes, '17  
Human Services  
USC Beaufort

educational career, and it took a really long time," Thomas says. "I can understand what [nontraditional students] are going through. They're not just doing school. They've got work, their kid got sick. Trying to manage the responsibility of full-time work, full-time parenting and full-time school — I



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# Spotlight on Commencement

## 2017 Commencement speakers announced for Palmetto College Campuses

Commencement season begins at the USC Palmetto College Campuses on Friday, April 28. This year's commencement speakers feature the University of South Carolina Alumni Association president, a former South Carolina First Lady, USC's chief EEO officer and the CEO of SAFE Federal Credit Union.

USC Salkehatchie will hold its annual commencement exercises on Friday, April 28, at 12 p.m. The speaker will be **Tommy Preston Jr.**, director of national strategy and engagement at Boeing South Carolina. In this role, he focuses on regulatory, public policy, grassroots strategy and community engagement. Most recently, he practiced law at Nexsen Pruet LLC in Columbia, S.C., where he represented companies and organizations, including Boeing, on economic development, public policy and regulatory matters; he also served as chairman of the firm's diversity initiative.

A native South Carolinian, Preston is a cum laude political science graduate of the University of South Carolina, and later earned his Juris Doctorate from the USC School of Law. As an undergraduate student, Preston was a Bill and Melinda Gates Millennium Scholar, and served as Student Body President. He is also the recipient of the prestigious Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, the highest honor awarded to a USC student.

A voice for improving education in South Carolina, Preston was selected by *The State* newspaper as one of the "20 Under 40 Leaders" in the community and received the Columbia Chamber's Young Professional of the Year Award. Preston is the founder of Cocky's Reading Express™ (CRE), a statewide initiative dedicated to improving literacy in the state. The program has provided over 120,000 books to children in South Carolina, and has received the financial support of a number of companies and foundations, including the Barbara Bush Literacy Fund. In 2014, the White House asked Preston to assist with the launch of President Obama's My Brother's Keeper initiative, a program to support the growth and success of young men of color. He is also on the advisory board for Teach for America South Carolina, an organization dedicated to strengthening the

nation's movement for educational equity and excellence.

In addition to his work on education and youth issues, Preston is a national leader on issues related to preserving our nation's judicial system and protecting citizens' access to justice; serving on numerous committees in the American Bar Association and National Center for State Courts. He is active in the ABA's Young Lawyers Division and currently serves as its national secretary; he is also a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

Preston remains active at his alma mater. He is the current president of the University of South Carolina Alumni Association, and he is the youngest and first person of color in the University's history to serve in this position. He also represents alumni on the USC Board of Trustees.

USC Lancaster will hold its annual commencement exercises on Saturday, April 29, at 2:30 p.m. The speaker will be **Rachel Gardner Hodges**, who served as South Carolina's First Lady from 1999 to 2003. She is engaged with nonprofit organizations throughout South Carolina, and her areas of expertise are humanitarian, education, arts and women's organizations.

Hodges is a Hartsville, S.C., native and graduated from Columbia College with a bachelor's degree in psychology in 1982. She began her career with Springs Industries in North Carolina. Following her training, she moved to Lancaster, South Carolina, for a position as national chains representative at the customer service center. She worked nine years for the textile giant before joining the health care industry as director of community relations at Springs Memorial Hospital.

Upon moving to Lancaster, Rachel met James H. Hodges on a blind date. They soon married and began a family. In 1998, Jim Hodges was elected governor of South Carolina and Rachel Hodges became first lady. In that role, she directed the restoration of the Governor's Mansion and created

the nationally recognized children's reading program called "Reading With Rachel."

For 10 years, Hodges has served the American Red Cross on state,



**Tommy Preston Jr.**

Director of National Strategy  
and Engagement  
Boeing South Carolina and  
President, University of South  
Carolina Alumni Association



**Rachel Gardner Hodges**

First Lady  
State of South Carolina  
1999-2003

**USC Salkehatchie  
Commencement  
Friday, April 28  
12 p.m.**

**USC Lancaster  
Commencement  
Saturday, April 29  
2:30 p.m.**

national and international boards and committees. She was instrumental in bringing the American Red Cross Leadership Institute to Francis Marion University, assisted in organizing its regional advisory council, served on the Tiffany Circle National Council, and co-chaired the first International Summit of Women Leaders in London, England.

She has served on the board of the South Carolina Governor's School for Arts and Humanities Foundation, the Central Carolina Community Foundation and the Columbia Museum of Art, and she advises the Women's Rights and Empowerment Network. Hodges has received notable awards, including the Order of the Palmetto, the state's highest civilian honor. She was also designated a Palmetto Lady by nine former governors of South Carolina.

USC Union will also hold its annual commencement exercises on Saturday, April 29, at 6 p.m. The commencement speaker will be **Bobby D. Gist**, who recently retired from the position of executive assistant to the president for Equal Opportunity Programs and Title IX coordinator at the University of South Carolina.

Gist is a Union, S.C., native, who has devoted his entire career to championing human rights, equal opportunity and diversity. A 1977 USC graduate, Gist has also received a master's degree in criminal justice with a specialty in public administration. In addition, he is a graduate of the U.S. Equal Opportunity Academy in Virginia, Leadership Columbia and the S.C. Executive Institute.

In his most recent position, Gist was USC's chief administrative officer for planning, developing, training, administering and evaluating USC's Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity policies as well as Title IX policies and practices. He also was a member of the President's Executive Council, the President's Community Athletics Advisory Council and the university's Diversity Committee. He is also an adjunct professor for the Daniel Management Center's Executive Development Program in the Darla Moore School of Business. Prior to joining the university, Gist served as deputy commissioner for compliance programs at the South Carolina State Human Affairs Commission for nearly 16 years.

Committed to his community, Gist is involved with several local, state and national civic and professional organizations. He is chairman of the Board of Commissioners for the Columbia Housing Authority, a member and past chair of the S.C. Professional Association for Access and Equity, and past chair of the S.C. Association of Minorities in

Public Administration. In January 2017, Gist was a recipient of the University of South Carolina Social Justice Award – which was presented for exemplifying Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s commitment to service, equality and social justice.

USC Sumter will hold its annual commencement exercises on Wednesday, May 3, at 11 a.m. The speaker will be **Beverly Gagne**, who recently retired as president and CEO of SAFE Federal Credit Union.

A Sumter, S.C., native, Gagne earned an associate degree from USC in 1982, the same year she was listed in the register of Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges. She was subsequently inducted into Beta Alpha Psi, an international honor organization for financial information students and professionals.

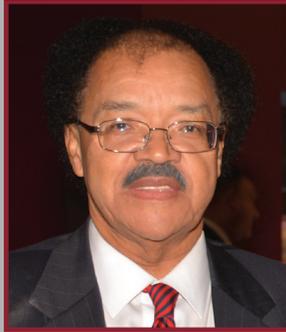
In 1983, she received a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in accounting from the USC, graduating magna cum laude. She was elected to Beta Gamma Sigma, the highest academic award in the academic discipline of business administration, and inducted into the Golden Key National Honor Society for significant academic achievements.

In 1984, Gagne accepted the position of data processing supervisor at SAFE Federal Credit Union. She was promoted to controller in 1986, the same year she received her master's of accountancy degree from USC, graduating with honors. She was named vice president of finance in 1989. Gagne graduated from the South East Regional Credit Union School in 1991 and was named senior vice president of finance in 1993. She was certified as a credit union executive and, in 2001, was named president and CEO.

In 2006, she was presented the USC Sumter Distinguished Alumnus Award by the USC Sumter Alumni Association, and was the first female to be honored as Business Person of the Year by the Sumter Chamber of Commerce. After 32 years of service at SAFE Federal Credit Union, Ms. Gagne retired on January 30, 2017.

She is currently serving or has served as a board member of the YMCA, United Way, Sumter Green, Carolinas Credit Union Foundation, South Carolina Credit Union League and South Carolina Automated Clearing House. Gagne was a 1998 graduate of Leadership Sumter and was a charter member of

the Rotary Club Sunrise. She is also a member of the USC Sumter Partnership Board and a member of the Palmetto College Board of Visitors.



**Bobby D. Gist**  
Executive Assistant to the  
President for Equal Opportunity  
Programs / Title IX Coordinator  
(Retired)  
University of South Carolina



**Beverly Gagne**  
President / CEO (Retired)  
SAFE Federal Credit Union

**USC Union  
Commencement  
Saturday, April 29  
6 p.m.**

**USC Sumter  
Commencement  
Wednesday, May 3  
11 a.m.**

## Spotlight on Staff

# Leadership Salkehatchie goes to Washington

Five members of the USC Salkehatchie staff recently graduated from Leadership Salkehatchie, a program sponsored by Southern Carolina Alliance (SCA), a six-county regional economic development organization, and USC Salkehatchie.

The program identifies and develops young leaders who either live or work in Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties. Three members of the leadership class are selected from each of the six counties represented by Southern Carolina Alliance.

Participants in the program complete a series of day-long educational sessions across a nine-month period to learn about leadership skills, economic development, diversity, the judicial system and legislative advocacy. The leadership class had an opportunity to put those latter skills to use as advocates for USC Salkehatchie and the region in a trip to Washington, D.C., to meet the state legislative delegation.

The USC Salkehatchie participants in the recent Leadership Salkehatchie Class included Director of Enrollment Management Services Mike Smith (who also represented Hampton County), Budget and Finance Director Jessica All, OSP Program Coordinator Latoya Robinson, Walterboro Campus Librarian Jessica Goodwin, and Leadership Institute Director Terri Boone, who also serves as the program's coordinator.



## USC Union Bantams Athletics joins NJCAA

USC Union is now affiliated with the National Junior College Association (NJCAA) and competitive Bantam teams will include baseball, softball and men's and women's Soccer.

Coaches for the competitive Bantam teams include (from left): Men's Soccer Coach Rich Webber, Women's Soccer Coach Michael Gustavson, Softball Coach Amanda Warley and Baseball Coach Keith "Jap" Worthy.



## USC Sumter adds Fire Ant Golf and Soccer to athletic program

The University of South Carolina Sumter will add women's golf and men's soccer to the four successful NJCAA Region X Division I Intercollegiate Athletics programs beginning fall 2017.

Current Fire Ant teams include men's and women's tennis, softball and baseball.

"These two sports make sense for our athletic department. They fit our facilities, staffing and size, and are beneficial for conference alignment and scheduling needs," said USC Sumter Director of Athletics Adrienne Cataldo.

## Spotlight on Community Engagement

# Native American Studies Center celebrates four years

In Fall 2016, the **Native American Studies Center** celebrated four years on Main Street in Lancaster.

During the past four years, the Center has averaged over 7,300 guests per year with a total of 29,505 visitors since it opened in October 2012.

To date, visitors have come from 22 countries, 42 of 50 states and 42 of 46 South Carolina counties.

The NASC is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Native American Studies Week was held March 13-18, 2017. The week centered on the history, culture, and traditions of Southeastern Native Americans, especially the Catawba.



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## USC Sumter students help ADMS students build their own culture vessel



In March 2017, students from Alice Drive Middle School, a nationally accredited STEM school, joined Dr. Dan Kiernan's Biology 101 college lab class to learn about fruit fly biology.

The USC Sumter students helped the middle school students build their own culture vessel with live fruit flies. The middle school students took the culture vessels back to their own classroom to conduct their own inquiry-based activities.

## Chancellor's Corner, *continued from page 1*

Regarding the financial health of the Palmetto College Campuses and Palmetto College Online, budget meetings focusing on year-end projections and budget building for 2018 were just completed, with each of the units projecting balanced budgets at year-end.

We are pleased to announce that the files for the Tenure and Promotion candidates have now been submitted to the Office of the Provost for review. We had four candidates for Tenure and Promotion, along with three for promotion only. The files are currently being reviewed by the provost and president, with final decisions to be approved at the June meeting of the University Board of Trustees.

The IT directors and Palmetto College IT team are working closely with the deans and academic deans as we strive to improve the Interactive Television Classrooms on each campus. We will continue those efforts throughout the summer and into the fall,

consulting with faculty as the work continues.

The Southern Association of College and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Fifth-Year Interim Report for USC Columbia – including the Palmetto College Campuses – was completed and submitted on March 17. The report is now being reviewed by the off-site committee, and results will be received by June 30. Many people were involved in completing the report and deserve accolades, but we all owe Dr. David Hunter and the academic deans a special “thank you” for all of their many efforts on our behalf.

Also, a SACSCOC Substantive Change request was submitted for USC Union's new Laurens location in 2014 and a site visit was made in mid-February 2017. We are delighted to announce that the exit report of the visiting team to President Pastides was an outstanding report with NO recommendations. Since it is very rare to receive a report without recommendations, all involved – including Dean Catalano, Associate Dean Randy Lowell

and Dr. Chris Rinehart, who directs the site, along with Mathew Dean, Connie Parker and Marcia Butler – are to be commended.

Finally, from a planning perspective, the Blueprint for Academic Excellence was submitted on March 31 and, again, we are all very grateful to the many people involved in that process. However, Dr. Hunter, the academic deans and Institutional Research and Planning officers on the campuses deserve a special “thank you” here as well. This next year will be one with planning as an emphasis as we work in conjunction with the University's new five-year plan to develop a five-year plan for Palmetto College. We will certainly involve all of you and others from the campuses in charting the future as we move forward.

In closing, again, thank you for the opportunity to work with all of you, as well as for all you continually do for Palmetto College and our students. Have a great summer!

## 2016-2017 USC Palmetto College Online Course Development Grant Recipients

### Extended University

**Patrick Saucier**  
SOCY 312  
Bureacracy and Modern Society

### USC Lancaster

**Susan Cruise**  
SOCY 340  
Introduction to Social Problems

### USC Salkehatchie

**Aaron Ard**  
STAT 201  
Elementary Statistics

**David Dangerfield**  
HIST 409  
The History of South Carolina,  
1670-1865

**Carmela Gottesman**  
PSYC 501  
Human Factors Psychology

### USC Union

**Helen Maire-Afeli**  
CHEM 107  
Forensic Chemistry

**Joe Anderson**  
MATH 122  
Calculus for Business Administration  
and Social Sciences

**Tara Fetemie**  
BIOL 110  
General Biology



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## Spotlight on Students

# Thorp receives 2017 Burggraf Award for highest grade point average among adult student learners

By Melissa Lowe, *Extended University*

**Terry Thorp** is an example of the successes that are sought after and celebrated by Palmetto College Online students.

Thorp is the 2017 recipient of the David L. Burggraf Award for adult student learners. The award is given annually in recognition of the student – 25 years of age or older – with the highest grade point average in Palmetto College's Liberal Studies, Organizational Leadership or Elementary Education online degree completion programs.

The award is named for David L. Burggraf, former director of Adult Student Services who devoted most of his career to the success of adult students at USC.

Thorp was born and raised in Kentucky, with the exception of six years when she lived in Australia. She came to Columbia, S.C., in 2000 by way of a drill sergeant husband and stayed here with her children after divorcing. Those children are grown with families of their own now. She has since remarried and is raising one of her grandchildren, 11-year-old Carter.

Thorp has worked on the Columbia campus for just under 10 years. She began in the Intellectual Property Office and was recruited into the Office of Research where she serves as its human resource manager. Despite her desire to continue her education, Terry was unable to take advantage of the tuition assistance program offered at the university.



Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins recently presented the 2017 David L. Burggraf Award to Organizational Leadership student Terry Thorp.

Raising Carter means that there is elementary homework and after-school activities, which doesn't leave much time for her to stay on campus or return for evening classes.

The existence of Palmetto College has afforded Thorp the opportunity to take care of her grandson, work full-time and continue her education. She frequently takes her homework to Carter's karate class or doctors' appointments, as time is still limited and the homework still needs to be done.

She and Carter frequently do homework together as they wait for dinner. He seems to get some enjoyment out of the fact that his "Mimi" is doing homework with him. Thorp tries to instill in him the importance of an education and that it is easier to attend college right after high school as opposed to trying to fit it in while maintaining an adult life with numerous responsibilities.

Thorp has thoroughly enjoyed her classes, has met many interesting people and even made a couple of great friends during her service-learning course last semester.

Thanks to Palmetto College, Thorp has been able to continue her education and anticipates graduating next fall with a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational

Leadership. The question Thorp anticipates at that point will be: "What to study next?"

## PC Awards, *continued from page 1*

faculty adviser and "Speech and skills coach" to the USC Mock Trial program and its three student teams. The program has received three team awards and rankings under her tenure as coach.

The new Shaw scholarship award is presented to a faculty member who exhibits outstanding scholarship.

The inaugural recipient of the **Denise R. Shaw Excellence in Scholarship Award for Palmetto College Campuses** was presented

to **Julia Elliott**, associate professor of women and gender studies in Extended University.

A prolific writer and essayist, Elliott's work often explores feminist epistemologies and philosophies of science. She gained national attention as a short story writer in 2012 as one of six emerging American women writers to win the Rona Jaffe Writer's Award. She was also named an Amazon Writer in Residence at Shared Worlds in 2016.

Elliott is the author of *The Wilds*, a 2014 short story collection, and *The New and Improved Romie Futch*, a 2015 novel. The latter is a finalist for the Southern Independent Book Association's Prince of Tides Award. She has also appeared in interviews in nationally prominent media outlets, and her work has been featured in publications including *The New York Times* and *O, The Oprah Magazine*.

## New Palmetto College commercial campaign debuts

USC Palmetto College recently launched a new, four commercial campaign that is currently airing on broadcast television, cable television in metropolitan areas across the state of South Carolina. The commercials are also airing online.

The new campaign has already earned American Advertising Awards for two individual commercials in the campaign (including the one pictured here).

The previous campaign, launched in late 2014, earned a (Silver) Telly Award, the highest level of achievement given for commercial work internationally.

The combined original television and radio broadcast advertising campaign earned a (Gold) Excellence in Marketing Award from UPCEA, the University Professional, Continuing and Online Education Association.

View both the 2014 and 2017 commercial campaigns online by scanning the QR code with a mobile device. The playlist may also be accessed by clicking on the QR code.



**University of South Carolina Palmetto College**  
Thornwell Annex | Third Floor  
1420 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, SC 29208