

Chancellor's Corner



Dr. Susan A. Elkins, Chancellor
USC Palmetto College

As we close this fall semester to enjoy a well-deserved holiday break, we are delighted to highlight faculty, staff and student accomplishments throughout this newsletter from... faculty awards at the national level to successful tenure and promotion of faculty to student accomplishments in the classroom and athletically... even to a national eSports championship... we're so pleased to share these many highlights from across Palmetto College through this Fall 2019 newsletter.

First, we are delighted to welcome President Robert "Bob" Caslen as the 29th President of the University of South Carolina, along with First Lady Shelly Caslen. We are grateful for their commitment to the university system and to our regional Palmetto College campuses and Palmetto College Online. They visited our regional Palmetto College campuses between Sept. 26 and Nov. 20, and we look forward to their visit to Palmetto College Columbia on Jan. 9.

Next, it's always great when we start a new year with a

Chancellor's Corner, continued page 9

New UofSC President Bob Caslen tours regional Palmetto College campuses

The regional Palmetto College campuses greeted two special visitors who have recently become an important part of the University of South Carolina and Palmetto College family: new UofSC President Bob Caslen and First Lady Shelly Caslen. The Caslens embarked upon a tour of the regional Palmetto Colleges as they became acquainted with both the UofSC System and the state of South Carolina this fall.

On their Sept. 26 tour of USC Salkehatchie's Walterboro and Allendale campuses, the Caslens met with students, toured the clinical nursing simulation lab and other facilities.

Touring USC Sumter later in the day, they had the opportunity to tour the campus and the facilities at Shaw Air Force Base. Part of their tour included



Kaetrena Davis Kendrick, assistant librarian at USC Lancaster's Medford Library was named the 2019 Academic/Research Librarian of the Year by the Association of College and Research Libraries. President Caslen honored her distinction as best librarian in the nation with the presentation of the UofSC President Coin of Excellence.

meeting members of the NJCAA Championship-winning Sumter Fire Ant eSports team.

President Caslen addressed

the combined Regional Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate later in the week.

Presidential Tour, continued page 8

USC Lancaster and USC Sumter ranked among top five community colleges in the nation

All four regional USC Palmetto College campuses rank among top five in S.C.

The University of South Carolina's four regional Palmetto College campuses lead the pack among the state's community colleges in the 2020 Niche Best College rankings.

In its national list of 2020 Best Community Colleges, Niche ranked USC Lancaster No. 2 and USC Sumter No. 5. In the list of 2020 Best Community Colleges in South Carolina, Niche ranked all four regional Palmetto College campuses: No.

1 USC Lancaster, No. 2 USC Sumter, No. 3 USC Salkehatchie and No. 5 USC Union.

"We are pleased to see that the entire nation sees the value in the education and opportunity afforded to students at our University of South Carolina system institutions," said University of South Carolina President Bob Caslen.

"These Niche rankings reaffirm the value of the University of South Carolina educational experience,"

added USC Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins. "The regional Palmetto Colleges offer South Carolinians an opportunity to pursue an accessible and affordable higher education within their respective communities."

The four two-year regional Palmetto College campuses – USC Lancaster, USC Salkehatchie, USC Sumter and USC Union – collectively enroll nearly 5,000 students within the Allendale, Lancaster, Laurens, Sumter, Union and Walterboro communities. The campuses confer associate degrees to graduates and partner

Niche.com rankings, continued page 6



Palmetto College Campuses salary study recommendations to be implemented beginning January 2020

In conjunction with the work of the Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate Welfare Committee and in alignment with the Palmetto College Strategic Plan, we are pleased to begin implementation of the recommendations from the USC Palmetto College Campuses 2018-2019 Salary Study Steering Committee beginning in January 2020. While our campuses struggled financially during and following the recession of 2008, the past few years have seen enrollment growth and financial benefits due to increased revenue from enrollment growth, additional revenues and increased efficiencies from Palmetto College, and improved funding from the South Carolina Legislature. Thus, this progress now enables salaries to be addressed in a more systematic way.

While faculty and staff salaries have been a priority and have been addressed since the inception of Palmetto College, we are pleased that the Salary Study Steering Committee

has completed their comprehensive study that documents a systematic methodology to be used as funds are available to make improvements. It is important to remember that this first year of implementation will begin to move us forward and that this process will take several years to address. While it is our desire to continue to address salaries over time, we must be successful in recruiting, supporting, developing, and retaining our students while managing our financial resources efficiently. However, we are pleased to take this first step in implementing the plan, then re-evaluating the plan in five years in conjunction with our ongoing strategic planning process.

As we value collaboration, transparency, and accountability, each step in this very complex process takes considerable time and much effort. Please join me in thanking all involved for their very hard work on this project, including the members of the Salary Study Steering Committee, along with our colleagues

across Palmetto College in the Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate, the Campus Deans and their leadership teams, Human Resources, Finance and Administration, and Institutional Research and Effectiveness. We are also appreciative of the assistance and leadership provided by those in Columbia and across the USC System, especially USC Aiken Chancellor Sandra Jordan and her team who developed and implemented this model.

The first step will address those faculty and staff with the greatest inequities identified in the methodology. Information on any increases in salary for those faculty and staff will be distributed in January 2020 and salary adjustments for those will be made at that time. Since this study proposes a multi-year strategy that is tied to strategic planning cycles and available resources, future steps will continue to address those faculty and staff with the greatest inequities identified.

USC Sumter introduces Winter Session

USC Sumter recently announced the addition of a new winter session. The new session will begin Dec. 30, 2019, and be completed by Jan. 19, 2020. The first class offered will be SPTE 110: Sports and Entertainment in American Life.

“We are excited to add this three-week mini session,” said Dr. Eric Reisenauer, USC

Sumter's executive associate dean for academic and student affairs. “This session will be an excellent opportunity for students to get an early start on their spring semester.”

The new class will be taught by Adrienne Cataldo who is USC Sumter's athletic director and head softball coach. The three-credit course will be conducted online so a student will

have flexibility to complete the class over the holidays.

“We are always looking for new ways to offer affordable and flexible classes for our students,” said Dr. Michael E Sonntag, dean of USC Sumter. “This new online course for the winter session is another example of how USC Sumter continually strives to meet the needs of our students.”

About USC Palmetto College Connections



This Issue's Contributors

Jane Brewer, Jean Carrano, Jason Darby, Chris DeWolf, Shana Dry, Susan Elkins, Victoria Hollins, Alethia Hummel and Annie Smith

Please submit all items for the Spring 2020 issue by Thursday, April 16, 2020.

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

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

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New Palmetto Pathway residential bridge program offers greater higher education accessibility to South Carolina students

Beginning in the fall 2019 semester, the University of South Carolina Palmetto College has been able to offer a unique opportunity for more than 50 first-year students to receive an affordable and accessible education with the academic support of a residential environment.

“Palmetto Pathway is a residential connector program designed to offer yet another pathway to

students who desire to complete a baccalaureate degree from the University of South Carolina,” said USC Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins.

Palmetto College currently offers paths to the baccalaureate degree through associate degree granting programs from USC Lancaster, USC Salkehatchie, USC Sumter, USC Union and Fort Jackson (USC Palmetto College Columbia); residential connector programs at USC Columbia, USC Aiken and USC Beaufort; and online bachelor’s degree completion programs through USC Columbia, USC Aiken, USC Beaufort and USC Upstate.

The 30-credit-hour Palmetto Pathway residential program has been offered to select students over two semesters who meet all necessary criteria. Palmetto Pathway students are housed on the Columbia campus of the University of South Carolina, take courses on the Columbia campus from Palmetto College faculty and be enrolled through the USC

Regional Palmetto Colleges, including USC Lancaster, USC Salkehatchie, USC Sumter and USC Union. Students in the initial cohort of the Palmetto Pathway program are enrolled through USC Lancaster.

“Palmetto Pathways, for me, feels very informative,” said Jimiere Pyles, a freshman from Simpsonville, S.C. “I feel like all of the people are here to help me



Jimiere Pyles, freshman



Linsey Betz, freshman



Lynda Byrd, parent

with very good resources to help me succeed in college. Maybe it was a better step for me than going straight into school because of all the resources they provide for me.”

Freshman Linsey Betz was actually accepted to a similar bridge program at a university in Texas, but ultimately decided that Palmetto Pathway and the University of South Carolina would be a better fit.

“I know that at first I was very hesitant about it, I thought ‘well I just got accepted into one program, why would I transfer to the next if they’re almost the same program,’ but then my mom talked to one of the advisor/administrators that was giving more details about it, and what I heard from my mom was that ‘they want you.’” said Betz.

“That’s what I wanted most. I wanted a college to want me, and it made me feel more accepted. I love the support system that has already been given, I’ve had multiple emails going back and forth with Ms. [Danelle] Faulkenbury [Palmetto Pathway program coordinator], who has been amazing. I can’t wait to see what this program does for me.”

Lynda Byrd, a parent from

access to integrated student support programs, including advising, academic support, health services, disability services and financial aid, that bolster their ability to succeed in earning their bachelor’s degrees.

After eligible students have completed the year-long Palmetto Pathway cohort program, they will be able to officially transfer as first-year students from USC Lancaster

to sophomore status at the USC Columbia campus.

While the residential connector program for regional Palmetto College campus students is relatively new to the Columbia campus, programs comparative to Palmetto Pathway

Daniel Island, S.C., is pleased that her son is part of the inaugural Palmetto Pathway program.

“He had been accepted at Alabama, and he wanted to go here. When he got into the program, there was a huge sense of relief. He did not want to be that far from home, he didn’t want to be at another school in South Carolina, he wanted to be at this school,” said Byrd. “The fact that this program allowed him to be on campus, to have the UofSC professors, to have the support and the backing, that is a huge relief as a parent that this is where he wants to be. I think that in and of itself will make him more successful, because he is happy, he’s where he wants to be.”

Students enrolled in the Palmetto Pathway program have

already exist at other baccalaureate degree-granting University of South Carolina system institutions. Students enrolled in the Sand Shark Scholars program live on campus at USC Beaufort’s Hilton Head Gateway Campus while completing their first year of courses through USC Salkehatchie, and Pacer Pathway program students live on the USC Aiken campus while completing their first year of courses through USC Union. All three Palmetto College residential connector programs are modeled after the Columbia campus-based Gamecock Gateway program, established in 2012, for students enrolled at a local technical college.

New staff hires to USC Palmetto College



USC Palmetto College and the Regional Palmetto College campuses are growing in enrollment, programs and their abilities to meet the needs of the communities in which they serve. With growth comes change and a few new hires have joined the ranks of Palmetto College.

BRIDGET BLACKWELL served as interim director of financial aid prior to her permanent appointment as financial aid director in July 2019. As the director of the Palmetto College Central Financial Aid Office, she manages the overall administration of the financial aid programs for the Regional Palmetto College Campuses. She oversees the development and consistent implementation of the federal, state and institutional policy and procedures. In addition, Blackwell administers the planning and oversight of the reconciliation process for federal and state programs.

She earned a Master of Education degree and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of South Carolina. She joined USC Palmetto College Financial Aid in 2007.

RON COX JR. was appointed dean of Palmetto College Columbia on July 1. In this role, he serves as the chief academic and administrative officer for Palmetto College Columbia, which includes Palmetto College locations in Columbia and Lexington.

Cox has 19 years of administrative experience with the Regional Palmetto Colleges, including USC Salkehatchie, where he served as director of the Walterboro campus, and USC Lancaster, where he served as associate dean for academic and student affairs for more than 15 years. In addition to that role, Dr. Cox has served Palmetto College, including Palmetto College Online, Regional Palmetto Colleges and Palmetto College Columbia, as associate dean for equity, diversity and inclusion.

A UofSC alumnus, he earned a Ph.D. and master's degree in history from the University. He also earned a bachelor's degree in history from Wofford College.

LEAH STATON KOSOSKI joined Palmetto College on Nov. 1 as executive assistant to the chancellor. In this role, she will serve as the primary point-of-contact for all matters pertaining to the Chancellor. She also oversees special events and serves as a liaison to the Palmetto College Board of Visitors.

Kososki comes to this role with much experience. She most recently served as executive assistant to the Secretary of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees, a role that she held since 2011. In that capacity, she also was responsible for coordinating and managing the relationship with the UofSC Board of Visitors. She previously served as deputy director of marketing for the S.C. Education Lottery. She is a University of South Carolina alumna, and a graduate of Leadership Columbia.

JOSEPH MEWS was appointed assistant dean of enrollment management for Palmetto College on Sept. 16. In this role, he provides leadership in enrollment management for Palmetto College and all related functional areas, including admissions, recruitment, financial aid, marketing, student success, student retention, career services and enrollment data analytics. Mews' oversight responsibilities include the regional Palmetto College campuses and Palmetto College Online.

He comes to this new role with significant experience in enrollment management services within higher education institutions and private industry. He most recently served as executive director of enrollment management services for USC Sumter. Mews previously served as assistant vice president of enrollment and student support center director at Saint

Leo University, and in admissions and financial aid positions with the Career Education Corporation and Vangent Inc.

He earned a Ph.D. in leadership from the University of the Cumberlands, a master's degree in educational leadership from the University of Central Florida, a bachelor's degree in sports management from Peru State College and a graduate certificate in organizational management from American Public University.

RALPH SUMMER was appointed interim director of finance of Palmetto College on Nov. 1; however, he is no stranger to Palmetto College. He previously worked in the university budget office, where he was responsible for working with the regional Palmetto College campuses on their budgets, among many other responsibilities.

BRITTNEY VEREEN joined the Palmetto College team as the Director of Student Services for the University of South Carolina Palmetto College program at Fort Jackson on Aug. 1. As the Director of Student Services, Vereen is responsible for directing the development and implementation of a comprehensive recruitment, admissions and communication strategy for the Fort Jackson Office on-post.

She began her UofSC career with the Office of the University Bursar as a Fiscal Technician II in 2015 and has also worked for the Office of the University Registrar. She earned her B.S. in Psychology from Francis Marion University in 2007, a master's degree in human resources management in 2016 and a graduate certificate in Higher Education in 2017. As a veteran, Vereen is proud to serve the brave men and women who have chosen to serve our country, as well as their families and Department of Defense civilian employees.

Liberal Studies alumnus Adam Everett, '19

Adam Everett, '19, has earned many accolades as an athlete, including a 2005 National League pennant as a shortstop with the Houston Astros and a gold medal as part of the U.S. National Baseball Team at the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia. More recently, he managed to switch careers thanks to the bachelor's degree he has completed online from the University of South Carolina through Palmetto College.

Everett was no stranger to UofSC. When Adam Everett was drafted by the Chicago Cubs in the fourth round out of high school, he opted to instead attend the University of South Carolina where he excelled as a student-athlete. Soon enough, he would receive more attention from Major League Baseball scouts.

He left the University of South Carolina in 1998 when he was selected by the Boston Red Sox in the first round of the Major League Baseball draft and was traded to the Houston Astros; however, he did not trade his dream for completing his bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina.

Everett's big-league career lasted for eleven seasons (2001-2011). Adam manned the shortstop position for much of that period and is recognized as one of the top defensive players in the Major Leagues, making just 85 errors in 827 career games. He was a critical member of the National League Championship-winning Astros team in 2005, and in that season's World Series. Between 2007 and 2011, Everett played for Minnesota Twins, Detroit Tigers and Cleveland before retiring as a player. He also served as a member of the gold medal-winning U.S. National Team at the 2000 Summer

Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

He later joined the front office and coaching staffs of a few baseball organizations, most recently serving as a coach in the Atlanta Braves organization, which includes seven teams ranging from a Triple-A minor league affiliate to the Major League franchise. His schedule with the organization took him all over the nation and made it difficult to sit in a classroom to complete his bachelor's degree in liberal studies. Thankfully, Palmetto College provided an ideal solution.

As a traditional university student just after high school, Everett says that he had an opportunity to adjust to academic studies, being on campus as a Gamecock, learning to deal with professors and life in general. Returning to the university as an online student nearly two decades later made him pay even more attention to how, when and what he was doing related to his schoolwork.

Everett said that the online environment made him a little more responsible in work, especially knowing that he needed to quickly respond to emails and texts in a timely fashion. Moreover, having to all online fostered greater



accountability.

Cheering him on at the December 2019 commencement exercises were his wife and four daughters. Everett attributes his wife's support as he spent the last two-and-a-half years working to complete his bachelor's degree. And, he notes that his four daughters think that this accomplishment is "cool," and he knows that they will appreciate the significance of it much more in the coming years.

Completing the liberal studies has already paid off. A month prior to graduation, he left the coaching ranks for a corporate position. He presently leads the sports vertical division of Synexis Biodefense Systems, a corporation that provides solutions for remediation of microorganisms in the agricultural, food service, hospitality, sports and entertainment, general commercial and government sectors.

Liberal Studies alumna Marlene Shields, '19



When Marlene Shields is conferred her Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies degree in December 2019, it will be both the culmination of one journey and the starting point for another. Marlene began her baccalaureate journey at USC Upstate in 2011, but her studies were cut short when her and her husband Travis moved to Colorado for work.

When they eventually settled in Los Angeles to be closer to family, Marlene decided to complete her degree and she discovered that she only needed three to four semesters to complete a University of South Carolina bachelor's degree; that's when she discovered Palmetto College. She tackled her studies while raising a now two-year-old son, and the expectant mother will have twins shortly after graduation.

During her time as a Palmetto College student Marlene excelled in her studies, and in April 2019, she made the trip back to South Carolina to be inducted to the Upsilon Zeta Chapter of Alpha Sigma Lambda honor society. Now, with her bachelor's degree completed, Marlene plans to pursue a master's degree in criminal justice.



Palmetto College Online programs garner national accolades

Our regional Palmetto College campuses have achieved high rankings nationally and statewide this year; however, they are not alone in garnering accolades. The four USC Palmetto College Online partners – USC Aiken, USC Beaufort, USC Columbia and USC Upstate – are also garnering recognition for their online bachelor’s degree completion programs.

CollegeConsensus.com has ranked Palmetto College as a whole as the No. 11 online bachelor’s degree program provider

among the Top 25 Best Online Public Colleges and Universities.

GreatBusinessSchools.org ranks USC Aiken’s online business administration program as No. 7 in the nation.

TheBestSchools.org has recognized three Palmetto College Online programs this year. USC Beaufort’s online hospitality management program ranked No. 8 among the Top 20 Best Online Hospitality Management bachelor’s degree programs, and Beaufort’s online human services program ranked No. 11 among the Top 25

Best Online Human Services bachelor’s degree programs. Based on the Columbia campus, Palmetto College Columbia’s online bachelor’s liberal studies program ranked No. 5 among the Best Online Bachelor’s in General Studies Programs.

USC Upstate’s online RN-BSN program ranked No. 9 in the nation among the Top 25 Ranked Online RN to BSN Programs by RegisteredNursing.org. The RN-BSN Program also ranks No. 1 in South Carolina.

Niche.com community college rankings – continued from page 1

with baccalaureate-granting USC institutions to offer the flexibility to complete bachelor’s degree programs on campus or via Palmetto College Online.

USC Lancaster, which ranks No. 2 nationally and No. 1 in South Carolina, is emblematic of the experiences shared among the regional Palmetto College campuses in the University of South Carolina system.

USC Lancaster invests in a variety of programming and support structures to enhance the student experience on campus and to provide students with resources to make them successful. For example, Lancaster provides free tutoring in all academic disciplines, enriched academic advising, the TRIO Opportunity Scholars Program for first-generation students, as well as personal and career counseling. Supporting academic encouragement, the college offers a student food pantry and clothing closet exist to meet the needs of students who need additional assistance in reaching their personal and academic goals.

In addition to those efforts to reach students beyond the classroom, the regional Palmetto

Colleges are important resources within their respective communities as well. USC Sumter recently hosted Swan Con, Sumter’s annual comic arts festival, on its campus. USC Union sponsors the annual Upcountry Literary Festival for poets, musicians, novelists, oral storytellers, playwrights, essayists and short-story writers. The USC Salkehatchie Leadership Institute prepares community members for leadership roles to help stimulate economic development in its five-county service territory. USC Lancaster’s Native American Studies Center offers a comprehensive resource for study of South Carolina’s Native American peoples, their histories and cultures.

Community outreach among regional Palmetto College campuses also includes college preparation and guidance for K-12 students and their families. Most of the campuses serve as hosts to University of Possibilities, a guidance program designed to prepare sixth through 12th-grade students and their families for college. And, high school students within these communities have an opportunity to begin taking courses for college credit.

Niche analyzes more than 3,000 colleges to create rankings and “Niche Grades” for all aspects of campus life, including academics, student life and value. The “2020 Best Community Colleges in South Carolina” ranking is based on a rigorous analysis of academic, admissions, financial and student life data from the U.S. Department of Education along with millions of reviews from students and alumni.

Niche also grades institutions on several other factors, including academics (35 percent), value (25 percent), professors (10 percent), student life (7.5 percent), campus (5 percent), diversity (5 percent), local area (2.5 percent) and safety (2.5 percent). The student surveys are self-reported by Niche users. A detailed explanation of methodology can be found here.

Niche is a website that facilitates the discovery of schools and neighborhoods for its users through analysis of dozens of public data sets and millions of reviews to produce comprehensive rankings, report cards and profiles for every K-12 school, college and neighborhood in the United States.

Gardner inducted to National Association of Women Artists

Fran Gardner, an art and history professor at USC Lancaster, has joined the ranks of the National Association of Women Artists Inc. (NAWA), having met the standards required by the membership jury of NAWA.

Gardner was inducted on Nov. 14 at the Rubin Museum in Manhattan, N.Y. In addition to this honor, her work is exhibited in the New Members Show that opened on the same day at the NAWA Gallery, also in Manhattan. This is her first New York exhibit.

Gardner teaches a variety of courses at USC Lancaster, including studio courses, art history, art appreciation, and art education. She earned her BFA from Columbia College and, later, her MFA from Vermont College of Norwich University.

"This organization has a long and important history of supporting women artists," said Gardner. "I am honored to be included in the membership of this group that continues to address the inequity of opportunities for women in the arts. I look forward to working with both the National Association and the



Fran Gardner

South Carolina Chapter to open doors and break down barriers for women artists and to exhibit and present my work on regional and national levels in support of the NAWA mission."

Dr. Walter Collins, USC Lancaster dean, added "Professor Fran Gardner has helped to create a dynamic culture of artistic expression, critique and appreciation at USC Lancaster. Over the span of her career, we have seen interest in art courses grow

which has served to diversify not only our academic offerings but our student body. The NAWA induction and her recent exhibition in their gallery space are such fitting honors and recognitions for Prof. Gardner and add esteem to both her national reputation and the influence of her scholarly work."

Gardner work has also been exhibited regionally and nationally and published in *Fiberarts* and *Needle Arts* magazines and in the books *Expressive Drawing* by Steve Aimone, *Crafting Personal Shrines* by Carol Owen and *The Art of Textiles* by Mary Schoeser.

In *Fiberarts*, writer Rhonda Sonnenberg described Gardner's work: "Fran Gardner's

sensuous work always begins with stitching, which draws the viewer almost unaware into a universe submerged by time, memory, and place. A sea of petroglyphs, ancient text, celestial calendars, medieval tarot cards, maps, numbers even computer motherboards, all of which speak to a universal, timeless language, encases Gardner's hand drawn human form like a soft carapace."

While she is generally known as a fiber artist, Gardner has gained attention in mixed media collage. She paints and draws with traditional materials, but also with the sewing machine, layering her work with rich texture, color and mark-making.

Gardner has won a variety of awards in competitive exhibits both statewide and nationally. In addition, she has exhibited at numerous art centers and museums including the Florida Museum for Women Artists in Deland, Fla. Of her exhibit at Watson MacRae Gallery at Sanibel Island, Fla., owner/curator Maureen Watson said, "For those who think conceptual art sterile and cold, Gardner's work shows us it can have beauty, soul and meaning ... art at its best."

A non-for-profit, non-political member-supported organization of professional women in the Fine Arts, NAWA was founded in 1889 by five innovative women who sought exhibition opportunities for gifted artists who had been denied participation in the prominently male-dominated art institutions of the time.

Fenimore awarded Mellon/ACLS Faculty Fellowship

Dr. Wanda Little Fenimore, assistant professor of speech communication at USC Sumter, was recently awarded a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). This award, the Mellon/ACLS Community College Faculty Fellowship, supports the research ambitions of humanities and social science faculty. The ACLS fellowship is made possible by the generous support of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The award carries a stipend that will support Fenimore's research on a book entitled *Elizabeth and Waties Waring: Paving the Rhetorical Road to Brown v. Board of Education*. The book examines the rhetorical battle that paved the way for change in the landmark 1954 Supreme Court decision, *Brown v. Board of Education*. As a rhetorical biography, it offers an account of resistance to white supremacy

as seen through the lives and words of Elizabeth and Waties Waring. The Warrings delivered a series of speeches from 1949 to 1951 designed to shift public opinion so that the federal government would intervene in the South and end school segregation. The Warrings' goal was to influence the outcome of *Briggs v. Elliott*, a school segregation feeder case to *Brown* that originated in Clarendon County, S.C.

"Dr. Fenimore's reputation for excellence in teaching, publishing and speaking have been further justified by being named an ACLS Fellow," said USC Sumter Dean Michael Sonntag. "We are extremely proud of her accomplishments. She truly



Wanda Little Fenimore

exemplifies the quality faculty that we provide our students at USC Sumter."

A Virginia native, Fenimore received her doctorate from Florida State University in 2013. Before coming to USC Sumter in 2015 as an assistant professor of speech communication, Fenimore taught at Hampden-Sydney College and served as the associate director of the Ferguson Center for Public Speaking. Among her other

accolades are several publications, professional conference presentations and awards including the top rhetoric paper award at the Southern States Communication Association's annual convention in 2019.



The Caslens tour the Native American Studies Center at USC Lancaster.



The Caslens greet students, faculty, staff and community members at USC Salkehatchie's Allendale Campus.



The Caslens learn about and meet members of USC Sumter's Fire Ant eSports team.



The Caslens meet members of USC Union's new rifle team.

Presidential Tour – continued from page 1

The Caslens' Oct. 30 tour of USC Union included an opportunity to witness the expansion of the campus' physical plant first-hand. Their meetings with students, faculty and staff, included an opportunity to meet with the Bantams' new rifle team.

On their Nov. 20 visit to USC Lancaster, which celebrates its 60th anniversary this academic year, the Caslens visited the Native American Studies Center and witnessed a nursing lab simulation demonstration. President Caslen also presented a UofSC Presidential Coin of Excellence to associate librarian Kaetrena Davis Kendrick, who was selected as the 2019 Association of College and Research Libraries' (ACRL) Academic/Research Librarian of the Year.

Selected as the 29th President of the University of South Carolina this past summer, Bob Caslen is a retired Army lieutenant general and former superintendent and president of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

During his time at West Point, the academy was recognized as the nation's No. 1 public college by *U.S. News and World Report* and *Forbes* magazine. After retiring from the Army in 2018, Caslen became the senior counsel to the president at the University of Central Florida and served as interim chief financial officer.

Caslen grew up in Vermont, where he worked in his family's ski lodge business and was on the high school ski and football teams. From there, he was recruited to play football at West Point. Along with his bachelor's degree



President Caslen addresses the Palmetto Colleges Faculty Senate.

from West Point, Caslen holds an MBA in finance from Long Island University and a master's in industrial engineering from Kansas State University. He and his wife, Shelly, have been married for 42 years and have three sons and four grandchildren.

pay raise! We are thankful that funding for the USC from the state legislature included a two percent salary increase for those who earn a base salary of less than \$100,000 and a \$600 bonus for those who earn a base salary of \$70,000 or less. We are grateful to the legislature granting both the raise and the bonus.

We are all so excited that all four of our regional Palmetto College campuses were ranked in the top five two-year campuses in the state in the NICHE 2020 Best Colleges report, with USC Lancaster being ranked No. 1 in South Carolina and No. 2 in the Nation, USC Sumter being ranked No. 2 in South Carolina and No. 5 in the Nation, USC Salkehatchie being ranked No. 3 in South Carolina, and USC Union being ranked No. 5 in South Carolina.

We are delighted to share that library resources from the Thomas Cooper Library are now accessible to Palmetto College faculty, with our PC faculty classified as affiliate faculty of USC Columbia!

The former Extended University unit now bears the new name of USC Palmetto College Columbia, with Dr. Ron Cox serving as the Dean of the new unit. PC Columbia houses the Organizational Leadership and Liberal Studies degrees, our new Palmetto Pathway Program, the University of Possibilities Program, and the new Lexington Transfer Center as we strive to better serve Richland and Lexington Counties. Congratulations to Dean Cox and those in the new PC Columbia!

A new website link that includes all Palmetto College faculty by discipline has now been developed and implemented in conjunction with a recommendation from the Faculty Senate. We are very grateful to Bob Dyer, Bryce Mobley, and Victoria Hollins for their work in creating this new site that brings together all our faculty members by discipline as one Palmetto College faculty. The site may be found at the following link. https://sc.edu/about/system_and_campuses/palmetto_college/about/view_all_pc_faculty.php

Finally, I'm delighted to share the very positive news on Fall Semester 2019 enrollment. The final census date was October 24, and the Palmetto College overall headcount enrollment for the campuses is up from the final day last year by 464, or 9.97%, (from 4,653 to 5,117) and FTE enrollment is up by 89, 2.78%, (from 3,204 to 3,293) over Fall Semester 2018, again resulting in the largest percentage increases of all the USC campuses. For comparison, the overall USC System

increase is 1.91% in Headcount and 0.97% in FTE. The official Institutional Research report for October 25th is attached.

In addition to the associate degree enrollment, the Palmetto College Online completion degree headcount enrollment as of October 25 was 1,120 compared to a final headcount last fall of 1,071, for a 4.58% increase. Palmetto College Online has also graduated 1,587 students as of Summer Semester 2019.

Also, we have reached three very significant milestones this semester! Number one is that this is the first time since the launch of Palmetto College in Fall 2013 that we have exceeded 6,000 in the overall enrollment of Palmetto College, with a headcount of 6,355 as of the freeze on October 25. Second, this is the first year that the overall enrollment of the regional Palmetto College campuses has exceeded 5,000, with a headcount enrollment of 5,117 on the freeze date of October 25. Finally, this is the first time that Palmetto College Online headcount enrollment has exceed 1,100, with 1,120 on October 25. The Palmetto College Enrollment Trends 2008-2019 is attached, so congratulations to everyone involved in reaching these three very significant milestones in the overall enrollment of Palmetto College!

With those milestones in mind, we have a new set of priorities for the Spring 2020 semester.

In early November, President Caslen convened a meeting of nearly 60 of our system's most senior leaders, including myself and our regional Palmetto College campus deans to discuss the future of higher education in general and the University of South Carolina System in particular.

The product of our time together is a new draft vision statement, mission statement and – most importantly – eight strategic priority objectives. Once completed, these eight priorities will form the bedrock of our new strategic plan. The goals, actions and measures that will fall under each become the roadmap that will guide the actions of our leadership in support of our university and our state.

Once the new vision, mission, strategic priorities and the entire plan has been finalized, the Palmetto College Strategic Plan will be revisited and aligned with the new USC Columbia Strategic Plan.

In relation to that, the raises mentioned above have now been factored into the PC Campuses 2018-19 Salary Study and implementation of the recommendations is

moving forward. The \$100,000 contribution will be dispersed at the beginning of the new year in January 2020. Information regarding the details of the study and the implementation plan will be distributed across Palmetto College before the December holiday break. We are pleased to begin addressing salaries of faculty and staff due to the enrollment and financial successes of the Palmetto College Campuses and Palmetto College Online.

The raises granted by the Legislature have been factored into the PC Campuses 2018-19 Salary Study, and implementation of the recommendations will begin in January 2020. Additional information regarding the Salary Study is provided in an article on page two of this newsletter.

As all of you are aware, preparation for the SACSCOC ten-year visit will continue throughout the Spring 2020 in preparation for the visit during the Spring of 2021. The majority of the report will be drafted by the end of the Spring Semester, and additional information will be shared as progress continues.

Finally, as we conclude the fall semester and 2019, it is such a privilege to work together with all of you as we serve our students across our regional Palmetto College campuses and through Palmetto College Online. As always, let me extend my thanks to each of you for your dedicated service as a member of the Palmetto College Family. Your leadership and commitment, both individually and collectively, is extremely important as we fulfill our mission of providing accessible, affordable, and flexible USC degrees to all eligible South Carolinians! Please always know how much you are appreciated!

Enjoy your holidays and have a restful break!

Tenure and Promotion

Congratulations to those who were Tenured and/or Promoted this year! I'm pleased to report that all of our Tenure and Promotion candidates from last year's cycle were successful!

Elizabeth Easley (USC Lancaster) was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor and the following were promoted to full professor: **Julia Elliot** (Palmetto College Columbia), **Bettie Obi-Johnson** (USC Lancaster) and **Bryan Lai** (USC Salkehatchie), with 100% agreement through every step of the process from the unit level all the way to the President.

USC Salkehatchie Men's and Women's Basketball both nationally ranked



For the first time in school history, both the USC Salkehatchie men's and women's basketball teams are nationally ranked. USC Salkehatchie Women's Basketball is currently ranked No. 16 in Week One of the World Exposure NJCAA (DII) Rankings.

"This is a testament to how hard our ladies work. We are grateful to be recognized," Coach Glen Mayo said.

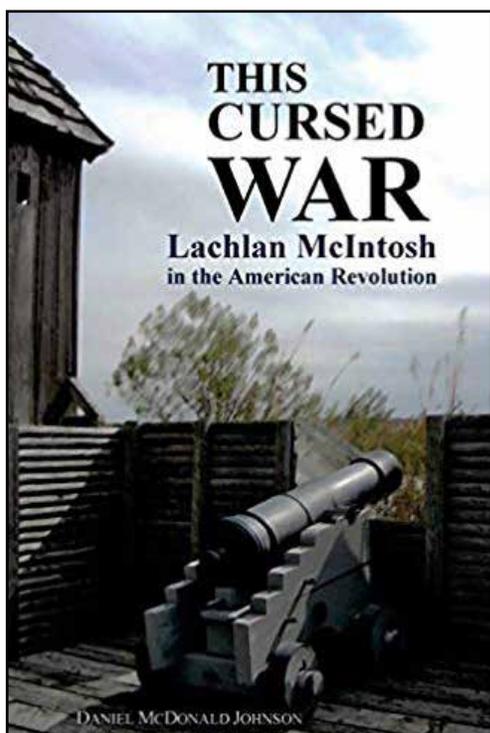
USC Salkehatchie Men's Basketball is ranked No. 6 by Basketball Times Magazine. The men's team defeated No. 12 Daytona State 103-81 on Nov 8, starting the season 3- 0.

USC Salkehatchie chemistry students visit the real "CSI"



Forensic Chemistry (CHEM 107) students from USC Salkehatchie visited the South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division (SLED), the statewide investigative law enforcement agency in South Carolina, to reinforce their studies on the fundamentals of forensic science, including evidence collection and analysis. Most local and county law enforcement agencies will contact SLED for incidents that may involve arson, illicit drugs, missing persons, and homicide.

During the tour, field agents explained the process of documenting crime scenes and collecting forensic evidence. Students also listened to agents who specialize in different areas of forensics: firearms, questioned documents (forgeries), fingerprints, trace analysis (e.g., gunshot residue), toxicology (e.g., blood alcohol), and drugs (e.g., opiates). The agents also showed the class their labs (from the outside). Their tour guide Sharon Hunt also explained student internship opportunities at SLED. This course is required for criminal justice majors, but it can also serve as part of a student's Carolina Core.



Johnson's new book examines life of Revolutionay War hero Lachlan McIntosh

USC Salkehatchie librarian Daniel McDonald Johnson has published "This Cursed War: Lachlan McIntosh in the American Revolution."

Lachlan McIntosh lived in Charleston as a young man and was a longtime business associate of Henry Laurens. He was among the American defenders during the Siege of Charleston and kept a journal that remains an important primary document for historians.

McIntosh's wife, Sarah, and her young children were living in Savannah while the French and American allies laid siege to Savannah, so she and her children had to endure artillery bombardments launched by her husband's army. Sarah and her children subsequently became war refugees. They wandered around Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia for years while McIntosh was in military service or being held as a prisoner of war after the capture of Charleston.

Previously, Johnson worked for newspapers in South Carolina and Georgia as a reporter, photographer and editor.



Daniel McDonald Johnson

Union County Carnegie Library selected for 2019 Historic Preservation Honor Award

The Union County Carnegie Library has been selected for a 2019 Historic Preservation Honor Award, which celebrates “successful and exemplary historic preservation projects around the Palmetto State.”

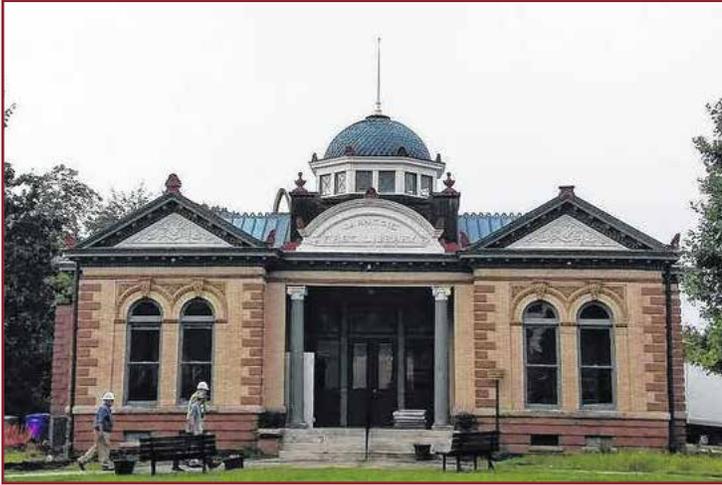
According to the South Carolina Department of Archives, “each year thousands of South Carolinians work to preserve the state’s legacy that is reflected in our historic buildings, structures, and sites. Since 1995, Preservation South Carolina, the S.C. Department of Archives and History, and the Office of the Governor have recognized

exceptional accomplishments in the preservation, rehabilitation and interpretation of our architectural and cultural heritage with a series of statewide awards.” The awards ceremony was held on June 21 at the South Carolina State House.

The Union County Carnegie Library opened in 1905 as the first Carnegie library in South Carolina and represents an important part of both South Carolina’s and Union County’s history. The building was designed in the Beaux-Arts style by the architectural firm of Wheeler & Runge, who oversaw the construction of numerous public buildings throughout the Carolinas and Georgia early in the century. The Carnegie Library completed a \$2.5 million renovation and historic restoration in 2018 with Harper General Contractors and McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture. The newly renovated facility is the first of its kind in South Carolina and now houses Union County’s United Way nonprofit center, workforce development services, and serves as the academic library for the University of South Carolina in Union.

“From the first moment I walked into this library, it has been one of my favorite buildings,” said Donnie Love, Architect and Historic Preservation Expert for

McMillan Pazdan Smith. “Getting to help lead the restoration has been particularly meaningful for me. Because this building is so interwoven into the fabric of the community, it was not only a restoration but a re-energizing as well, something our team was honored to be part of.” Highlights of the



project include restoration of the tin ceiling and reincorporating the building’s original paint scheme into the space. Additionally, the renovation included a new children’s area with a slide between the main and lower levels, which increased the library’s operating space by approximately 4,000 square feet. Another important aspect of the renovation was inclusivity, with the Carnegie Library now being the most accessible public facility in the county.

Rieta Drinkwine, Executive Director of the Union County Library System stated “We are honored to be a recipient of the 2019 SC Preservation Honor Award. The most rewarding part of this project is seeing how excited the community is about the newly renovated and restored Union Carnegie Library. The Library proudly serves as a cornerstone of Union’s unique heritage, and our updated partnership facility embodies what we can accomplish together as a community in the future.” The Union County Carnegie Library was additionally among the 30 finalists for the Institute of Museum and Library Services 2019 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. The National Medal is the nation’s highest honor given to museums and libraries for service to their communities.

USC Sumter and UofSC alumnus Dwight C. Watson



USC Palmetto College Chancellor and University of Wisconsin Whitewater Chancellor meet at AASCU 2019

Regional Palmetto College campus graduates are leading the way in a variety of disciplines across the nation. At the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities in October, Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins met University of Wisconsin Whitewater Chancellor Dwight C. Watson.

Watson, who has led UW Whitewater since August 2019, earned an associate degree from USC Sumter before moving onward to the University of South Carolina to earn bachelor’s and master’s degrees in education. He also holds an Ed.D. from N.C. State University. Prior to his appointment as chancellor, he served as provost and vice president of academic and student affairs at Southwest Minnesota State University, an institution serving 7,300 students as part of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System.

Previously Watson served as dean of the College of Education at the University of Northern Iowa, associate dean of the teacher education program at the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire and chair of the Department of Education at Hamline University.

With more than 35 years of experience in education, Watson was a first-generation college attendee of modest means who found that higher education provided him the functional, navigational skills needed to access future opportunities. In his professional career, he has focused on access, affordability, service and success.

2019 Philips Military Endowed Scholar announced

At a September 2019 scholarship luncheon, Sergeant Kyle Ventura was awarded a Robert V. Phillips Palmetto College Military Endowed Scholarship. Named for decorated WWII veteran Bob Phillips, the scholarship was established by his family in 2017 to ensure that veteran and active duty personnel would have additional financial support to complete their degrees.

Ventura is enrolled in the Fort Jackson associate degree program.

To be eligible for the scholarship, the recipients are required to be active duty service members, National Guard or reserve members, veterans or spouses of active duty service members. They are also required to be enrolled in the Fort Jackson Associate Degree program or

the USC Palmetto College online degree completion program. A “last-dollar” scholarship, the Phillips fund pays the remaining balance of their tuition and fees after Federal Tuition Assistance or veterans benefits are applied.

Surrounding Sergeant Ventura in the photo (from left) are Fort Jackson Director of Student Services Brittney Vereen, her recently retired predecessor Connie Vise, Rhonda Collins, Joel Collins, USC Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins, UofSC Director



of Military Engagement and Veterans Initiatives Jared Evans and Mike White. The scholarship

was established by Joel and Ronda Collins in honor of her late father. White was also a major donor.

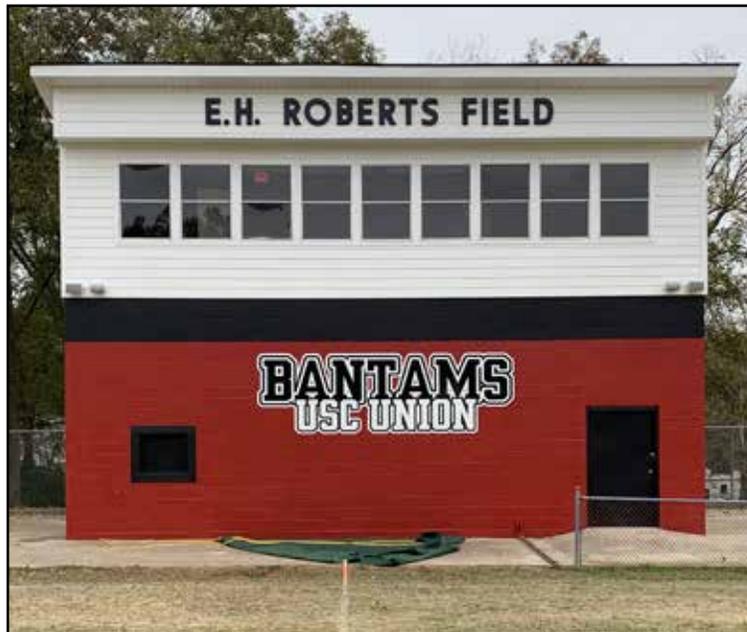
Bantams soccer and baseball teams welcome new home fields

The USC Union men's soccer team hosted their season opener on Aug. 22, at their new home field in Jonesville against USC Sumter.

Their new home, the E.H. Roberts Field, is the former home of the Jonesville High School football team at the Jonesville Municipal Complex.

The Bantams baseball team will also have a new home field in Jonesville, located on Ballpark Street. Baseball field renovations will begin this fall and their season opener will be in spring 2020.

The process of deeding the property to USC Union started back earlier this year when Jonesville Town Administrator Michael Tyler and USC Union Marketing and Development Director Annie Smith were talking during a golf tournament sponsored by the Union County Development Board. The discussion was originally about the baseball field that the Town of Jonesville had to maintain but nobody used. The baseball team was practicing on the field, but needed some place of their own for a home



E.H. Roberts Field in Jonesville, S.C., is the new home of the USC Union Bantams men's soccer team. The venue formerly housed the Jonesville High School Football Team. The Bantams baseball team has also found a new home in Jonesville and will open in 2020.

field. Shortly thereafter, the Town of Jonesville and the University entered into discussions, at first about the baseball field and, later, the soccer field.

With the help of USC Facilities Project Manager Keith Ballington and Smith, the

scoreboard was relocated, the concession stand had a facelift and the press box received a complete renovation. The second floor of the press box can now be used to host special guests and donor events.

USC Union Dean John Catalano said USC Union is proud to partner with Union County, the Union County School District and the Town of Jonesville in order to establish the home of Bantam soccer and Bantam baseball.

“Michael Tyler and Annie Smith have been the driving force behind this effort, but without Mayor Ernest Moore and the Jonesville Town Council, it could not have happened,” Catalano said. “It is a pleasure to work in a county in which there is cooperation by so many players with the goal of a better

University and a better community in which to live. I hope our Bantams play with the same spirit of teamwork that I see daily in Union County and its municipalities.”

USC Sumter alumna Vicky Edwards

Vicky Edwards always knew she wanted to teach.

“It was difficult in the early 70s to have a family and a career,” Edwards said. “I had this passion for teaching and wanted to jump right in.”

Edwards decided to try out the education field by working as a teacher’s aide at Millwood Elementary School in Sumter. While she loved working directly with children, she had already set her sights on goals of teaching and, eventually, administration.

With encouragement from professors at the University of South Carolina Sumter and self-motivation, Edwards was able to bring her dream to fruition and impact the lives of hundreds of students and fellow teachers along the way.

“At the time, the only way for me to earn a degree was to take night classes,” Edwards said. “Being young and married with small children made the idea of commuting for college almost impossible.”

After researching some options, Edwards and a small group of others found their way to USC Sumter. Because the campus was small, they formed relationships with professors like Ellen Arl and Lee Craig that would prove valuable for many years.

“Ms. Craig was so encouraging and would make classes happen for us in Sumter if we found enough students to attend,” Edwards said. Each semester they would gather 15-20 students who needed education courses and the faculty and staff would find ways to accommodate them.

Edwards and her fellow students went to class at night and throughout the summer to finish their degrees. In only three years, she earned her Elementary Education degree at USC Sumter.

“I was so excited to start teaching and wanted to experience everything involved with students and the classroom,” Edwards said. Not only did she begin her teaching career, she made it her mission to teach every grade level, including the hearing-impaired class.

Edwards wanted to continue to grow in the field, so after several years in the classroom, she decided to pursue a career in counseling. That’s when she found herself back at USC Sumter.

“I wanted a master’s degree but, again, could not work commuting into my schedule,” she said. “The faculty and staff at USC Sumter helped me complete my graduate degree in counseling right here at home while I worked



and took care of my family.”

Edwards said taking baby steps and celebrating each course was the best way to make the goal of a master’s degree achievable.

“USC Sumter was my home away from home, the faculty were so encouraging and helped us see the light at the end of the tunnel. They knew we were working professionals, so they tried to make it as streamlined as possible,” Edwards added.

After some time as a counselor at Willow Drive Elementary, Edwards decided to make a career change to an area she set her sights on earlier in her career – administration. She was hired as principal of Bishopville Primary School (BPS).

“What an eye-opening experience that was for me,” she said. “The needs there were great, but the town was small.” Edwards spent many hours combing the streets and meeting business owners to find donations for materials, books and desperately needed supplies. In return, the hallways at the school were painted with murals of their businesses.

“So many of the business owners had attended BPS as children and were willing to give back,” Edwards said. “They even brought ‘The World Changers’ in on the weekends to paint and spruce up the old school. Smith’s Concrete donated fountains and Mr. Drayton donated trees and shrubbery from his nursery to name just a few.”

She was determined to make Bishopville

Primary a National Blue Ribbon School, and she did.

Serving as a leader at a small rural school can be a challenge to say the least. Edwards was charged with recruiting teachers to the area and stumbled upon an organization called FACES (Foreign Academic Cultural Exchange Service) that placed teachers from foreign countries in needy schools. She worked closely with the group to bring in teachers from Romania and other countries to help supplement open positions.

After investing 28 years in the teaching field, Edwards was recruited by FACES the day after her retirement to continue finding teachers for Sumter and the surrounding areas. She has successfully worked with the group for the past 14 years.

Today, Edwards continues to honor those who paved the path for her. She and her husband, Frank, are actively involved in campus activities and remain loyal fans of the university. She is motivated daily by the love and support of her family and knows there is “much to be thankful for.”

“I can never repay those who helped me while I was trying to earn my degrees, but I can give back now and provide the same help for others,” Edwards said. “I encourage everyone in our community to not only recognize what this campus has done and will continue to do for students, but to give. If money is an issue, give time and support.”

New men's golf program tees off at USC Sumter

USC Sumter launched a men's golf program this semester and currently the team includes four local golfers: Bradley Coulter, Andrew Griffin and Brandon Griffin – all of Sumter – and Grant Kinlow of Manning. Recruitment is ongoing as the season begins in the spring of 2020.

Paul Harrington has been chosen to lead the new team. Harrington hails from Boone, N.C., but currently resides in Manning. He is a Vietnam Veteran who served in the Army. Harrington was a member of the golf team at Gardener-Webb University when they won the NAIA Championship in the '70s. For the past 18 years, he has served as the Assistant Golf Pro at the Wyboo Golf Club and Assistant Manager at the Crystal Lake Golf Club.

"My goal for the team and athletes is to make them the best person, best student and the best golfer they can be," said Harrington.



USC Lancaster Players perform *Mama Mia!*



The USC Lancaster Players performed the musical *Mama Mia!* in Stevens Theatre on campus, Nov. 15-17. Marybeth Berry, theater and speech professor at the university, directed the show. Tyrie Rowell provided technical direction and Cassidy Sneed choreographed the performance.

Fire Ants eSports team wins NJCAA Rocket League Championship



In December 2019, the USC Sumter Fire Ant eSports team defeated the Centralia College Trailblazers to win the NJCAA Rocket League Collegiate Championship. The USC Sumter Fire Ants varsity eSports team, launched in 2015, has previously been ranked to the ESPN Top 50 list.

Established in 2016, the National Association of Collegiate eSports (NACE) is the only association of varsity esports programs at colleges and universities across the U.S. The Rocket League, in which USC Sumter is a member, has more than three dozen member institutions. USC Sumter and USC Union are also part of the NJCAA. In total, NACE is comprised of more than 170 member schools constituting 5,000-plus student athletes. More information can be found at nacesports.org.



USC Salkehatchie Fencing Club: A swashbuckling good time

It's Thursday afternoon and the usual quiet of the first-floor main hallway of USC Salkehatchie is being periodically pierced by the sound of steel on steel: the Salkehatchie Fencing Club is in session in the meeting room at one end of the hallway.

Periodically, the metallic sound draws a student to the other side of the double doors. They are invited in to get a closer look. Some come into the meeting room, some are content to watch from the other side of the doorway.

This marks the second year two Salkehatchie professors, Francis Burns and David Hatch, are leading the club members through their training on the martial sport of fencing.

Hatch is the division chair of Salkehatchie's Arts and Languages and an associate professor of English. Burns is an associate professor in the Chemistry Department.

Burns said the first year "went reasonably well. We had close to a dozen students attend at least one fencing club meeting. Three to four students became regular club members.

"We had to work out some kinks," Hatch added. "The most difficult thing is finding a good time for all of us to get together. Then we had to get some new equipment. I have a lot, but not enough for a whole club."

It was a mutual love of fencing that led the two educators to team up to form the Salkehatchie Fencing Club.

Hatch, who attended Brigham Young University, said he was a part of the university's fencing club and then attended a fencing school. "I was nationally ranked in foil for several years."

Hatch said fencing provided him lessons he found beneficial in life. "The sport requires athleticism, discipline, creativity and decisiveness," Hatch explained.

"People are also expected to be spectacularly polite. We always salute each other before a bout, we must respect the decisions of the judges, and we always shake hands after a bout," he added.

Burns' sister was on her university's fencing team. "I visited her and found it to be intriguing."

When he enrolled at Ohio State University, Burns took a series of physical education courses and then tried out the OSU's fencing team, joining it as an epee fencer.

"I practiced three hours each day. I also spent many weekends traveling to fencing meets. I spent more than 40 hours a week during the fall and winter seasons. I also had to complete all of my science courses, including laboratories. I was a scholar-athlete, maintained a GPA better than 3.0," Burns said. "As a result,



I learned physical and mental discipline. This discipline has served me throughout my life, particularly during my doctoral program.

"Fencing also taught me to focus. When a heavy metal blade attacks, my body's adrenaline starts rushing and my heart rate spikes," Burns said.

"I had to learn to channel my energy and stay focused on my opponent. Fencing is always exciting."

There are three types of fencing: foil, epee and saber. Foil is the most common weapon and the one the members of the Salk club use.

"We spend the first half of our meetings on basic skills and drills. We also discuss the rules for foil fencing," Burns said.

"The second half of our meetings are on sparring. We take turns to fence against each other," he added.

"When I arrived at Salkehatchie, I mentioned in passing that I was a former fencer," Burns explained.

"This led to a conversation with Dr. Hatch, who is a foil fencer. Dr. Hatch asked me to work with him in establishing a fencing club

at USC Salkehatchie. I have not fenced since my undergraduate education because I raised a family. However, fencing is an excellent sport for middle-aged people.

"We feel like it is unusual and that students might not be able to learn to fence anywhere else in the neighborhood," Hatch said. "Fencing has a long tradition, of course. It was one of the first ten events at the revived, modern 1896 Olympics games in Athens. For that reason it is a martial sport, not a martial art, but it is classic and fun.

And who doesn't like a good swashbuckling movie?"

This year, Hatch and Burns decided to open up membership in the club to community members.

"This university is part of the community. This university is all about community. We want to fulfill the role of being central to the education of this area, and that includes introducing new sports and activities as well as new ideas and new professional skills," Hatch said.

Burns added, "We want to encourage our community to participate in our campus' events. Our

student population has a high turnover, as do many universities. As a result, we would like to increase continuity through community involvement."

They hope that the community has residents who have some experience in fencing who want to rekindle their love of the sport, as well as citizens who want to try their hand at it for the first time.

"This can be a lifelong sport," Hatch explained.

"I am turning 50 soon, and I regularly thump on 20-year-olds. In this sport, being experienced and sneaky is much more important than being young and fast. That and learning how to move your feet. Always move your feet."

"There are no fees associated with our fencing club. We are working on establishing it as a permanent organization. This will require additional equipment, but we are just getting started," Burns added.

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Happy Holidays

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
Palmetto College



USC Lancaster celebrates 60th anniversary

In 1959, USC Lancaster was established in downtown Lancaster to serve the people in six surrounding counties. As the oldest of the regional Palmetto College campuses, USC Lancaster remains a devoted and purposeful institution of higher education for the citizens of this state. Congratulations on your first 60 years!

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