The Big Picture

The Communication Department at 20

Recognizing Our Donors

Winter 2019
USC Aiken’s new spirit horse provides an outlet for creative student expression and Pacer Pride. It promotes university events and increases awareness of social justice.

On the cover: Betty Ryberg with chancellor ambassadors Q’Ladrin and Q’May Qourters at Jingle and Jazz. More photos of that event (see page 44).
EDITOR’S DESK

Happy New Year!

Many years ago, in a conversation with a Unitarian minister, I asked if he made New Year’s resolutions. He said he didn’t but that he did believe in setting goals. “The key is to set unrealistic goals,” he said. “Many experts advise to set goals that are achievable, that we can easily attain. But if we only identify those things that we can easily do, the question remains: Why am I not already doing this? Unless we set goals for ourselves that aren’t just beyond reach, we never strive and grow.”

I’ve never forgotten those words. And because it’s a new year, they seem very appropriate to this issue of USC Aiken magazine.

The university has just completed its five-year strategic plan, Forward Together, and is assessing its progress on those objectives. Were they easily achieved? Most people say no; however, because our faculty, staff, and students reached beyond what was easily obtainable, we grew and, in some cases, surpassed our benchmarks. In “Leading Forward Together” (see page 38), Meredith Hawcroft examines our achievements and how they earned USC Aiken another number-one ranking.

Was it reasonable to expect this university, the state’s first public institution to become an All-Steinway School? No, but that’s exactly what it achieved. Campaign co-chair Beth Newburn was recognized as the university’s Volunteer of the Year for her tireless efforts (page 49).

Collytte Cederstrom didn’t settle for the easily achievable and dedicated herself to research and community service. As a result, she was recognized as the Outstanding Senior at our convocation of December graduates (see page 23).

Striving and growing, too, is the Department of Communication which turns 20 and continues to prepare students for an ever more complex professional world (page 26).

Donor Carol Jantzen could have taken the easy route, but because she persevered and strove to succeed in the male-dominated field of science, she not only obtained the highest levels in her profession but also continues to inspire the next generation through her generous gifts to the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center (page 32).

Finally, we thank and recognize our donors who have given $500 or more this past year to help our students accomplish that which they previously thought unachievable (page 44).

What will the next five years produce? What sort of unrealistic goals will we aim for next? With the continued support of our alumni, donors, and community partners, the future looks very promising.

Sandra J. Jordan
Chancellor

Mary Driscoll
Vice Chancellor for Advancement

Randy Duckett
Director of Alumni Relations

Editors
James Raby
Director of Marketing and Communication
Alison Kahn

News Editor
Leslie Hull-Ryde
Director of News and Information

Sports Information Director
Brent Hager

Designer
Kati Stay Brayton

Contributors
Bob Gordon
Meredith Grace Hawcroft
Leslie Hull-Ryde
Chris Quick

Editorial Board
Robin Callicott
Randy Duckett
Mary Driscoll
Brent Hager
Meredith Grace Hawcroft
Phylesha Hiers
Leslie Hull-Ryde
Lauren McMurrtrie
Jeffrey Wallace
Charmonie Wilson

Photography
Meredith Grace Hawcroft
Kati Stay Brayton
Phylesha Hiers
Scott Webster Photography

Special Thanks
Aiken Standard
Friends of the Animal Shelter

USC Aiken
471 university Parkway
Aiken, SC 29801
803-641-3408
alumni@usca.edu

Contents

DEPARTMENTS

6 Noteworthy
56 Quintessentially Aiken
62 Alumni News
64 Sports
66 Photo Finish

FEATURES

17 The Gift that Serves
The university celebrates the opening of an expanded and improved Disabilities Support Center.

20 Equestrian Teams Outperform the Competition
Riders with spirit and tenacity have the right stuff to bring home the medals.

24 What Shelter Dogs Can Teach Us
Students and shelter dogs benefit from a partnership between the Psychology Department and Aiken County Animal Shelter.

26 Communication Department Celebrates 20 Year Impact
Department prepares graduates with skills that employers seek.

32 Gifting for the Love of Science
Donor Carol Jantzen’s trailblazing career was fueled by a passion for geology.

38 Who’s Number 1...Again?!
A story of successes behind those top rankings.

44 Donor Honor Roll
Celebrating our partnerships, recognizing our donors, and honoring our champions.
Governors.

Appointed to NCAA Board

Chancellor Sandra J. Jordan was appointed to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Board of Governors during its annual conference in Orlando, Florida. The board of governors is the highest governance body in the NCAA and is composed of institutional chief executive officers who oversee association-wide policies and guidelines, which include Division I, II, and III institutions. The board is charged with ensuring that each division, and the NCAA as a whole, operates consistently with the underlying purposes, fundamental policies and general principles of the association.

Additionally, Jordan was elected vice president of the NCAA’s Division II Council of Presidents and chair of the Finance and Planning committee for the division. She is the first member from a Peach Belt Conference institution to be elected to an executive position on the NCAA Council of Presidents and chair of the Finance and Planning committee for the division.

Rodriguez Named MBA Director

Linda C. Rodriguez was appointed as MBA director for the School of Business in December. She arrived at USC Aiken in 2009 after earning her PhD in management and international business from the University of Texas–Pan American. Rodriguez teaches management and business and society courses. In recent years, she has made significant contributions to USC Aiken’s online MBA program. Rodriguez’s appointment will provide a greater level of support to students in the program, which is growing exponentially.

Samaha Heads NACA Program

Ahmed Samaha, interim vice chancellor for Student Life and Services, was named president of the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA) program director for the 2020 summer Institute at Walt Disney World in Orlando. Samaha will spearhead one of NACAs key programs.

NACA partners with Disney to offer the annual leadership development program for student leaders and professional staff. Students participate in team building exercises and customer service programs. Advisors learn how to incorporate Disney leadership concepts into their student training programs, coach students to act as peer supervisors, and encourage student leaders to create inclusive environments.

Students will oversee curriculum development, collaborate with Disney's Youth Education Series professionals, work with NACA's national office to market the program, recruit and select faculty, and assess the program.

Wilson Wins Teaching Award

The Carolinas Communication Association presented the Lloyd Rohler Career Teaching Award to Charmaine Wilson, chair of the Department of Communication. The award recognizes members who have “consistently demonstrated excellence in teaching communication throughout their academic careers.”

Wilson, a longtime member of the association and a former president, has taught at USC Aiken for 27 years and served as department chair for 4.

Among her contributions to campus, Wilson developed an enriching senior capstone class, which has proven to boost the rate of students who find employment soon after graduation. Among her contributions to campus, Wilson developed an enriching senior capstone class, which has proven to boost the rate of students who find employment soon after graduation.
Meccia (bottom) on tenor saxophone.

Violin Concerto in D Major, with Lauren perform a new interpretation of Tchaikovsky’s David Cutler of the School of Music (USC from drug and alcohol addiction.

than 40 interviews with people in recovery piece she produced last year, based on more, a full-length theatrical Recollections of Recovery presented segments from Misery is Optional:

Theater professor Dewey Scott-Wiley (top) produced by faculty members.

immersive and dynamic half-day event featured host the TEDx UofSC on October 9. This The USC Alumni Center in Columbia Arts Faculty Perform at TEDx UofSC

8 9

USC AIKEN / WINTER 2019 USC AIKEN / WINTER 2019

By the River, a documentary appeared in By the River, a documentary featuring a series of interviews with authors from South Carolina’s lowcountry, coproduced by SCETV and USC Beaufort. She has published three books about her hometown and one about Edisto Island.

Writing History From Memory Alexia Helsley was a high school friend of author Pat Conroy. Her essay about that friendship, “A Girl, a Boy, and a Train,” is included in a new collection, Our Prince of Service: Writers Remember Pat Conroy, released in September.

The professor of history also contributed a chapter to Recovering the Piedmont Past, II, released in November. In “Better Babies: Dr. Daniel Lesene Smith, his Baby Hospitals and the Southern Pediatric Seminars,” Helsley writes about the pioneering pediatrician from Spartanburg, South Carolina, who operated a private baby hospital in Saluda dedicated to maternal education and diet.

Beyond print, Helsley, a Beaufort native, appeared in By the River, a documentary featuring a series of interviews with authors from South Carolina’s lowcountry, coproduced by SCETV and USC Beaufort. She has published three books about her hometown and one about Edisto Island.

Cyber Whiz Wins Crypto Challenge Applications analyst Chris Clark is a sucker for a crypto challenge. The information specialist and cyber super-sleuth in the university’s Computer Services Division signed up for the annual CarolinaCon conference in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he showed his mettle as a code breaker.

Each year cyber geeks like Clark pit their skills against one another, engaging in friendly security contests that involve activities like lock picking and hacking.

And then there’s the crypto challenge: Participants decode a series of encrypted texts, one by one, and report their findings and methods to the challenge organizer. It’s all about speed. And for the second year in a row, Clark took the lead—and won the challenge.

Scholarship Named for Jenik Aiken County Commission for Higher Education (ACCHE) honored a longtime USC Aiken staff member with an eponymous scholarship. The Sherri McDaniel Jenik Endowed Scholarship Fund for Special Education recognizes Jenik’s more than 30 years of service to the ACCHE. In May, she retired from her position as executive assistant to the current chancellor, after previously working for former chancellors Robert Alexander and Tom Hallman.

Jenik also was honored by the Chancellor’s Cabinet with an ornamental bench dedicated in her name and placed outside the Pickens-Salley House.

“Those are small tokens of thanks for the hard work and dedication Sherri has committed to the commission, the university, our chancellors—and most importantly, our students,” said Teresa Haas, interim chair of the ACCHE.

New International Programs Director The university welcomed Liz Dille as the new assistant director of student life-international programs this fall.

“Currently, we have students from 38 countries represented in our student body. Liz [will] give these students the critical support and guidance they need and deserve,” said Ahmed Samaha, interim vice chancellor for Student Life and Services.

She joins the Pacer team after serving in a similar capacity at Mercer University, where she was the associate director of international programs. Before that, she was at Presbyterian College, serving as assistant director of international programs.

Dille is active in the National Association of International Educators and serves on its regional leadership team. She has expertise in immigration and visa process and associated laws.

Sports Science Studies Published Exercise and sports science faculty Brian Parr (top), and Andrew Hatchett (bottom) and their student research assistants won recognition for their work with the publication of two studies in professional journals: Archives of Physical Health and Sports Medicine and Sports. Parr investigates functional fitness deficits in obese individuals, the effect of exercise and weight loss on functional fitness, and the impact of indoor and outdoor exercise on mood and depression. Hatchett’s research focuses on lower extremity muscle recruitment patterns, nasal-only breathing in cardiovascular exercise, the effect of diaphragmatic breath on respiration, and the effect of group functional fitness on symptoms associated with PTSD and on individuals so diagnosed.
Chancellor Receives High Honors

During its annual conference in New Orleans, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges awarded its highest honor to Sandra Jordan, the fourth chancellor at USC Aiken. Jordan was presented with the James T. Rogers Distinguished Leadership Award. The honor, named for the former executive director who served the Commission on Colleges for more than two decades, "is the highest public recognition given by the commission and is reserved for extraordinarily distinctive and effective leadership," according to the SACSCOC website.

"I am truly humbled. This is a tremendous honor," Jordan said in her acceptance speech following a standing ovation by the nearly 5,000 members gathered for the event.

IT’S ACADEMIC

Examining Immigration

Immigration, the hot-button issue of the day, was the subject of assigned summer reading for Critical Inquiry (CI), a course requirement for all first-year students. An autobiography for Critical Inquiry (CI), a course requirement, Immigration, the hot-button issue of the day, was the subject of assigned summer reading for Critical Inquiry (CI), a course requirement for all first-year students.

Summer Scholars Showcase Research

USC Aiken launched its inaugural Summer Scholars Institute, which offers undergraduates an opportunity to present their summer research with faculty advisors. Approximately 20 presenters, representing a cross-section of disciplines, participated.

Student scholars received more than $50,000 in total for their summer research. Funding includes biomedical grants from the National Institutes of Health, part of its Institutional Development Award (IDEA) Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence. The Department of Energy gave Workforce Development Award (IDeA) Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence. The Department of Energy gave Workforce Development Award (IDeA) Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence. The Department of Energy gave Workforce Development Award (IDeA) Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence. The Department of Energy gave Workforce Development Award (IDeA) Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence. The Department of Energy gave Workforce Development Award (IDeA) Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence. The Department of Energy gave Workforce Development Award (IDeA) Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence.

Currently, only 10 chemistry programs at institutions of higher learning in South Carolina hold ACS certification. While USC Aiken’s is the smallest program, it graduates more ACS-certified students per year than do schools of similar size across the country.

ACS Certification for Chemistry

The American Chemical Society (ACS) recently recertified the university’s chemistry program. Graduates from the program benefit directly from this national recognition.

“The ACS approval allows our graduates to go anywhere in the country. Graduate schools or employers . . . know the quality of the degree our students received because of this national designation,” said Chad Leverette, interim dean of the College of Sciences and Engineering and former department head.

Currently, only 10 chemistry programs at institutions of higher learning in South Carolina hold ACS certification. While USC Aiken’s is the smallest program, it graduates more ACS-certified students per year than do schools of similar size across the country.

STEAM-Themed Art Competition

As part of its 30th anniversary celebration, the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center held a STEAM Youth Art Competition and Exhibit. The STEAM—Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics—competition was open to all K-12 students, whether public, private, or home-schooled, in the CSRA.

The idea behind the competition was to encourage students to focus on and connect creatively with these critical areas of study. Entrants were invited to submit original, hand-produced artwork with a STEAM theme. A jury selected by the center judged entries on originality and artistic merit.

PARTNERSHIPS

Gift from the Heart

Thayer McClatcher, dean of the School of Nursing, received a gift of $7,000 from the Aiken Chapter of Mended Hearts, which will be used for equipment and a specialized training mannequin.

Better Business Breakfast

The Office of Career Services hosted its inaugural Breakfast of Champions to recognize local businesses that have supported USC Aiken students, particularly by providing internships and other practical training opportunities. Twenty-one representatives from area companies and organizations attended the event.

In his remarks to the group, Corey Feraldi, director of Career Services, noted the mutual benefits of internships: They provide enriching learning experiences for students—and they also may boost employers’ retention rates, according to a study by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, which showed higher retention among full-time employees hired by employers with whom they had interned.

Two representatives from ADP–Augusta—Brandon Reece, an alumnus, and Max Morgan—spoke positively about their experiences working with students. “I love USC Aiken interns,” said Morgan, ADP’s campus talent acquisition business partner. “I want more.”
Donor Supports Career Prep

Students preparing to graduate and enter the workforce can expect to find more resources available to them through the Office of Career Services, thanks to support from the Enterprise Holdings Foundation. The foundation is the philanthropic branch of Enterprise Holdings, whose integrated global network of independent regional subsidiaries and franchises operates Enterprise Rent-A-Car, National Car Rental and Alamo Rent A Car.

To date, the Enterprise Holdings Foundation has given the university a total of $3,500. A recent gift of $1,000 helped to fund the Career Services Computer Station, where students can search for jobs, research careers, complete assessments and create resumes and cover letters. Enterprise representatives have sponsored workshops on career-related topics and participated in networking receptions and career fairs on campus.

The foundation also helped to underwrite the Career Closet—a unique resource stocked with gently used professional clothing that students can borrow to wear to an interview or career fair.

Students preparing to graduate and enter the workforce can expect to find more resources available to them through the Office of Career Services, thanks to support from the Enterprise Holdings Foundation. The foundation is the philanthropic branch of Enterprise Holdings, whose integrated global network of independent regional subsidiaries and franchises operates Enterprise Rent-A-Car, National Car Rental and Alamo Rent A Car.

To date, the Enterprise Holdings Foundation has given the university a total of $3,500. A recent gift of $1,000 helped to fund the Career Services Computer Station, where students can search for jobs, research careers, complete assessments and create resumes and cover letters. Enterprise representatives have sponsored workshops on career-related topics and participated in networking receptions and career fairs on campus.

The foundation also helped to underwrite the Career Closet—a unique resource stocked with gently used professional clothing that students can borrow to wear to an interview or career fair.

Several Paces have participated in the highly regarded Enterprise Holdings Management Internship Program, and 19 alumni currently work at Enterprise, where many graduates enroll in the Management Training Program.

Something New under the Sun

Ruth Patrick Science Education Center introduced a visually captivating planetarium show, Sunstruck. Purchased by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) for $10,000, Sunstruck enables visitors to travel to the distant future and explore the sun’s connection to the cosmic cycle of life. Recent upgrades to the planetarium—including expanded seating and a state-of-the-art Digistar 6 system that projects full-color, 360-degree video imagery—enhance the immersive, full-surround experience.

SRNS recognizes and shares the value of STEM-based education, while the science center supports with its strong emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. “A STEM-based education is fundamental to nearly every occupation found at the Savannah River Site,” said Wallis Spangler, SRNS senior vice president. “We are pleased to continue our long-term partnership with our friends at USC Aiken.”

The Collegiate Affiliate Program launched with a $105,000 grant from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions LLC, which manages Savannah River National Laboratory. Part of the funding will be used to renovate an office space in the Gregg-Granitsville Library. Other monies will support establishment of a training workshop, salaries for faculty, and general program management and marketing.

Science on Tap

USC Aiken and the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) launched the first Science on Tap exchange for the academic year in Pacer Alley, the university’s downtown location. The interactive speaker series connects students and faculty with experts from SRNL to discuss science-related issues.

The event opened with a student poster session, followed by speakers from the College of Sciences and Engineering and from SRNL. Simona Murph, principal scientist for the National and Homeland Security Directorate at the lab, presented “State-of-the-Art NanoMaterials: From Innovation to MarketPlace.” Nicholas Marshall, assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry and Physics, spoke about “Ship-in-a-Bottle Polymerization: Polyiodophene Doping of Metal-Organic Frameworks.”

The additional funds permit students to focus on their education, which increases their graduation success and also often allows them to graduate on schedule, said Robert Murphy, director of the university’s Office of Veteran and Military Student Success. “Several factors make USC Aiken the number one Best for Vets Universities in South Carolina—one of them being the unwavering support we receive from our community partners.”

A-AWW CGC generates scholarship funds from its annual spring golf tournament. In 2018, the level of support surpassed that of previous years: the tournament netted $58,344—up eight percent from 2017. This was due largely to increased support from Janney Financial and three new platinum sponsors: Safelite Auto Glass, Women of Woodside, and Ansaldo STS.

The 2019 Aiken-Augusta Wounded Warrior Charity Golf Classic is scheduled for May 20.

PACERS GO AND DO

Early Childhood Educator Recognized

Senior Lindsey Callahan received the Felicia Smalls Ragland Award at the South Carolina Association for the Education of Young Children Conference in Columbia. The award honors an outstanding early childhood teacher in the state.

“I am so proud of this amazing rising educator,” said Judy Beck, dean of the School of Education. “She is not only actively involved...
in classrooms in our region but she is tackling education policies at the state and national levels. She’s a go-getter who is making things happen.”

The award is named for an influential educator who dedicated her life to the education and betterment of young children, parents and early learning teachers through staff development trainings and consultant services, administrative child-care positions and management roles.

Undergrad Aces Paper Competition
Sociology major Travis Harden presented his research at the Mid-South Sociological Association in Birmingham, Alabama and came home with highest accolades.

Harden, who is minoring in Spanish, submitted Film Analysis: Gayby Baby for the association’s undergraduate paper competition. Of the 15 contenders, his won best of the lot.

Washington Leadership Exchange
During fall break, 10 student leaders traveled to the nation’s capital to explore its institutions of government and learn from leaders present and past. They met with staff for South Carolina representatives Joe Wilson and Jim Clyburn and senators Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott. Legislative aides and a chief of staff offered inside details about the political system and how Congress operates.

This annual Leadership Exchange to DC gives students an invaluable opportunity to see how democracy works in the United States.

Pinnacle Awarded to Literary Journal
USC Aiken’s literary magazine, Broken Ink—specifically, the 50th anniversary issue—won the College Media Association’s (CMA) Pinnacle Award for Best Literary Journal. Judges for the national competition review publications produced at four-year institutions. The awards recognize the best college media organizations.

The CMA award has generated recognition from schools around the country. “A faculty adviser from Oregon State University emailed me for advice on how to keep his school’s literary journal running,” said Roy Seeger, faculty advisor and English professor. Seeger credits both the editorial team and the submitting writers for the magazine’s excellence. “This year the [creative quality] of our submissions was up,” he said. “We were in the situation where we had to reject work that was good because we didn’t have enough space in the journal.”

Broken Ink, published once a year, is written, edited, designed, and produced by students. Bonnie Watson and Haley Dixon, the editor in chief, accepted the award at the CMA’s conference in Louisville, Kentucky.

Building on Experience in New Orleans
A group of student volunteers traveled to New Orleans over fall break to help build homes for local residents. Working with the nonprofit Habitat for Humanity, they learned how to hammer a nail correctly and how to effectively and efficiently build the infrastructure of a house.

But the experience taught them more than practical skills, said education major Lindsey Callhoun. They learned how to work together as a group and get outside their personal comfort zones for the greater good. Most importantly, Callhoun said, they learned how to recognize and capitalize on each other’s strengths. It “helped us to learn when to lead, when to take a step back, and how rewarding it can be to work hard on something that will mean so much to someone.”

Along with the lessons in life and leadership, the Pacers got an introduction to the city’s rich culture and an informed look at the impact of Hurricane Katrina.

Ciao! Italians on Exchange
A small group of high school seniors from Orvieto, Italy, visited the campus for a two-week exchange sponsored by Partners in Friendship. The Italian visitors got the full university experience: They met with student-athletes—soccer players, of course. They toured a campus residence hall, the Convocation Center, the Student Activities Center and the Library Learning Commons, where students can study while cycling. And they got a crash course in genetics research in April DeLaurier’s zebrafish lab.

Their hosts served up an all-American lunch of hamburgers and hotdogs. In return, the students prepared with ingredients the visitors brought from home.

Every other year, high school students from Aiken visit Orvieto for a reverse exchange. University students can participate in an archeological dig or a telecommunications internship during the summer.

Backpack Food Drive a Success
During the university’s One Table pre-Thanksgiving feast in November, Pacers held a campus-wide food drive for Warrenville Elementary School’s Backpack Buddies Program. The program distributes backpacks filled with nonperishable items to individual students at the end of each week, supplying provisions to last a couple of days. Donations by faculty, staff, and students filled 189 backpacks with canned and prepackaged items for the kids to enjoy over the Thanksgiving holiday.

“We want to help provide for students who might not have adequate access to food during the Thanksgiving break,” said Christian Medders, assistant director of Student Life and the events coordinator. “This is the second year that we have collected canned goods as part of the [One Table] event. It allows us to show thankfulness for all that we have been given while enjoying lunch with our fellow Pacers.”

Organizers plan to select a different elementary school each year for the food drive. Warrenville Assistant Principal Patrick Newsome is a Pacer alumus.
Louise Skalko, a longtime educator and former Aiken resident now living in Johnson City, Tennessee, has committed her time, talent and resources to ensuring that students with disabilities have the tools they need to achieve their educational goals. To that end, she has worked closely with institutions in at least three states, creating educational spaces that meet these students’ unique needs.

Most recently, she funded and built the Louise Skalko and Sam Creech Disabilities Services Center. The center offers an accessible space and expands the services available to students with disabilities. Its name honors Skalko’s friend and colleague at Augusta Tech, Sam Creech, a USC Aiken alumnus. Creech, who suffered from cerebral palsy, was confined to a wheelchair for life. He, like Skalko, strongly advocated for provision of services to persons with disabilities.

“Each year we are seeing more and more students who have benefited from equal access,” said center director Claudette Palmer. “In the past, many students were not able to make it to the university because of their disabilities. But now, with accommodations, they are able to be successful. Our numbers continue to grow each year.”

Among the services and resources, the center provides are proctoring of exams, preparation of disability-specific accommodation plans, training in use of technological aids, a private space for conferences and counseling, and a quiet environment with limited distractions conducive to studying and testing.

Bass Team Gone Fishin’ with Seniors

The newly established bass fishing team kicked off the fall semester with a community service project in recognition of National Assisted Living Week. USC Aiken Anglers spent a day fishing on a private pond in Saluda with residents of several local assisted living communities. Owners of the pond offered it to the group for the occasion.

The community service project was the brainchild of Robby Bowles of Pathway Hospice Cares. He coordinated and served as liaison with residents of Benton House, Hitchcock Place, the Village of Woodside, Brookside, Saluda Nursing Center, and Pathway Hospice.

Rocking the Alley

Pacer spirit spilled into downtown Aiken for the annual Amp the Alley in September. The popular month-long festa, cosponsored by the university in partnership with the city, featured a variety of foods, music, performances, and all around good vibes.

“I have a downtown presence is important for the university and enables [us] to strengthen its partnership with the city of Aiken,” said Brandon Eberl, president of the USC Aiken Student Government Association. “Events such as Amp the Alley increase school spirit among both students and members of the Aiken community.”

The university is also a sponsor of the city’s Oktoberfest on September 29.

Remembering Irene Krugman Rudnick

Irene Krugman Rudnick died on February 2, 2019. Born in Columbia, South Carolina in 1929, Irene was the eldest child of Jean (Getter) and Jack Krugman. She was married to the late Harold Alan Rudnick of Aiken.

Irene earned her bachelor’s degree cum laude from the University of South Carolina. She then attended the USC School of Law, where she was one of only a few women. After graduating, Irene opened her law practice and soon moved to Aiken after marrying Harold. She practiced law and had two children.

As a life member of the American Association of University Women, Irene once served as president where she became involved in a community campaign to offer more educational opportunities for area youth. She helped organize fundraising receptions, letter writing campaigns, and other efforts to increase awareness for the creation of USC Aiken.

Irene taught business law at USC Aiken from 1961 through December 2018. In 2011, she received an Honorary Degree in Education from the university.

Irene began her political career as Superintendent of Education for Aiken County. In 1972, she was elected to the S.C. House of Representatives from District 81 in Aiken where she served for 14 years.

In 1983, her son Morris began practicing law with her, and they practiced law together until only a few weeks before her death.

Morgan Manneney, the niece of Sam Creech, spoke about her uncle’s indomitable spirit.

Louise Skalko, a longtime educator and former Aiken resident now living in Johnson City, Tennessee, has committed her time, talent and resources to ensuring that students with disabilities have the tools they need to achieve their educational goals. To that end, she has worked closely with institutions in at least three states, creating educational spaces that meet these students’ unique needs.

Most recently, she funded and built the Louise Skalko and Sam Creech Disabilities Services Center. The center offers an accessible space and expands the services available to students with disabilities. Its name honors Skalko’s friend and colleague at Augusta Tech, Sam Creech, a USC Aiken alumnus. Creech, who suffered from cerebral palsy, was confined to a wheelchair for life. He, like Skalko, strongly advocated for provision of services to persons with disabilities.

“Each year we are seeing more and more students who have benefited from equal access,” said center director Claudette Palmer. “In the past, many students were not able to make it to the university because of their disabilities. But now, with accommodations, they are able to be successful. Our numbers continue to grow each year.”

Among the services and resources, the center provides are proctoring of exams, preparation of disability-specific accommodation plans, training in use of technological aids, a private space for conferences and counseling, and a quiet environment with limited distractions conducive to studying and testing.

Dr. Claudette Palmer poses with students at the grand opening of the new USC Aiken Disabilities Center.
Alum Fit for Service
Antonio D. Evans, class of 2001, was the keynote speaker for the convocation ceremony honoring graduates on December 13. A native of Laurens, South Carolina, Evans now calls Charlotte, North Carolina, his home. He is the founder of several fitness brands: Plank Life, Power Wheel Race, Hustle your Health, and San Fitcisco. He also owns ReShape Fitness LLC. Through this program, he has provided fitness and wellness services to communities, organizations, and individuals for 14 years. Evans also created Making Fitness Fun and Educational, a program for middle school students.

The university dedicated an entire week of activities in observance of Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, both of which fall on September 17—the date in 1787 on which framers of the U.S. Constitution signed the historic document.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, every educational institution that receives federal funds for a fiscal year is required to offer an educational program about the U.S. Constitution.

Special sessions and panels, all open to the public, included “Gerrymandering: Where the Politicians Pick the Voters” and “Alcohol, History and the Law.”

Another topical panel discussion, “Women Leading in Our Community,” featured alumna Lessie Price, Aiken City councilwoman for District 2 and the first woman to run for city office in Aiken; Gail Diggs, councilwoman for Aiken City Council District 1, who also serves on the university’s Inclusion Advisory Council; Camille Furgiuele, councilwoman for Aiken County Council District 2; and Elise Bickford Fox, a first-time political candidate who ran for South Carolina State House District 81. (She was defeated by incumbent Bart Blackwell).

“We wanted to honor the anniversary of the ratification of our Constitution and call attention to how it is a living document that has changed with time,” said political science professor Sarah Young. “It has extended the promise of democracy to include additional groups of citizens over its history—women being one of the largest of these.”

The subject of the panel was particularly relevant, given the record-breaking number of women who ran in the 2018 midterm elections in November. And the panelists had a special message for women in the audience: Step up and lead.

“The recent emergence of women candidates and their success is inspiring. Young men and women are showing how they are working together in many political arenas and getting things done. This is proof that we are better and stronger together,” said Diggs.
Equestrian Teams Outperform the Competition

EVENTING TEAM PLACES AT TRYON AND HUNT CLUB

The eventing team made the top 10 at the Tryon Riding and Hunt Club Horse Trials, a two-day event held in Tryon, North Carolina. Competing against 11 collegiate teams, the Pacers placed third and fifth, while individual riders placed in the top three in their divisions.

“These eventers train hard and represent the university all over the region,” said Michelle Hodge, advisor for the team.

Ribbon winners were Bailey Hamilton, Amanda Fisher, Keileigh McMurray, and Sarah Cundith.

WESTERN RIDERS BRING RIBBONS HOME

The USC Aiken Intercollegiate Horse Show Association’s Western Team participated in a collegiate contest at Middle Georgia State university.

Coached by Jeff Temple, the team competed against 10 others. USC Aiken had only two team members who were up against bigger schools with larger teams and older equestrian programs.

Other competitors included Clemson, Coastal Carolina, Florida State university, Georgia Southern, Lander, Middle Georgia State, University of Central Florida, University of Florida, Wesleyan College, and the University of South Florida.

“I am very proud of our team. They exhibited excellent sportsmanship as well as great horsemanship, and hard work was the key to their success,” Temple said.

Rider Lexi Whisenant came in first in the advanced horsemanship division and qualified for regionals, which take place at the University of North Florida in March.

This marked Katie Wolfe’s first show, which proved successful, as she placed third in the beginner walk-jog event.

“This was my first show, and I didn’t know what to expect,” she said.

“With the help of Jeff, our coach, and Lexi, our team captain, I brought home third place. I couldn’t have done it without them, and I can’t wait for our next show.”

The next western riding competition is slated for February at the University of Central Florida.

USC Aiken’s western riding program, which is relatively new, is growing in popularity on campus.

“We are very happy that we have a western team as an option for USC Aiken students,” Temple said. “The team gives everyone an opportunity to learn and compete in a fun and challenging format. "We are hoping that the western team continues to grow, and we’re proud to be a part of it.""

In January, USC Aiken graduate Hannah Jameson, a secondary education major, received a 2019 Human & Civil Rights Champion Award, which was presented during the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration, in the USC Aiken Convocation Center.

“Everything she does is in service to others,” said Lindsey Callhoun, a fellow education major who became friends with Jameson during their sophomore year.

“If she sees a homeless person, she will take them to the grocery store. She is so giving.”

Jameson, a Pacer Pathway tutor, hosted students from India for the university’s relatively new Leadership Exchange program. In addition, her undergraduate research has focused on recognizing African-American culture within the education community. Throughout her collegiate career, she has presented her research at several professional and educational conferences, which suggests embracing the unique culture and vernacular and incorporating it into classroom activities and instruction.

During a teacher’s conference in Myrtle Beach, S.C., Jameson not only presented her research but also held a discussion for attendees that exposed prejudice and racism in the school system and urged her future colleagues to promote inclusion. "Through her activities, and as an intern at South Aiken High School, she has encouraged inclusiveness and addressing prejudice to all she encounters.

“She stresses the importance of not discriminating based on a student’s background, baseline knowledge or where they come from,” Callhoun said.

“[When teaching,] Hannah teaches her students about stereotypes, prejudices and other misconceptions of different cultures and works to reverse those thought processes, [turning them into] ones of inclusiveness.”

When introducing Jameson as the recipient of the USC Aiken Human & Civil Rights Student Champion Award, Dr. Forest Mahan, president of Aiken Technical College, thanked her “advocating for diversity and inclusion.”

He said a champion is “one that does battle for others” and “advocating for diversity and inclusion.”

“Anyone who has come in contact with Hannah knows her kind and tender spirit and drive to create a loving environment for every person she comes in contact with,” Callhoun said.

Each year, the Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration Planning Committee awards three human and civil rights champion awards. One goes to a USC Aiken student, one to an Aiken Tech student, and one to a member of the community.

Nominators must help protect and advance the human and civil rights of students on campus; be an active member of a service organization on campus; work to build inclusive and diverse partnerships with students and faculty on campus; and participate in a campus project or assignment that identifies and encourages the values of diversity, inclusiveness and belonging.

Jameson not only champions rights for those in her own community, but she also travels to Jamaica summer for extended outreach programs. Her Pacer soul sister believes the Orangeburg, S.C., native is making a difference wherever she goes.

“Anyone who has come in contact with Hannah knows her kind and tender spirit and drive to create a loving environment for every person she comes in contact with,” Callhoun said.
Judith Goodwin, of USC Aiken Advancement; Cody Anderson, owner of George Funeral Home and Cremation Center; and Lisa Turner Maddox of Turner’s Keyboards of Augusta are collaborative supporters of the university’s All-Steinway Campaign. The three attended a festive benefit concert by the Aiken Civic Orchestra to raise money for the campaign.

Prior to the concert, Turner’s Keyboards of Augusta pledged to make a $5,000 contribution to the university if a patron purchased a Steinway Spirio that night. Anderson generously obliged, making this his second gift to the campaign for a total of $10,000, which went directly to USC Aiken’s Steinway effort.

Donors’ Duet for Steinway Campaign

Outstanding Senior

The university named psychology major Collytte Cederstrom as the December 2018 Outstanding Senior. Cederstrom’s scholarly performance has been impeccable, as illustrated by her repeated dean’s list rankings. According to her professors, she is conscientious, motivated, and hard-working, with excellent quantitative, writing, and analytical skills. The faculty of the Psychology Department praise Cederstrom as a model student who inspires them in the classroom.

She graduated December 13 in the USC Aiken Convocation Center.
What Shelter Dogs Can Teach Us

BY BOB GORDON, FOTAS COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR

When you take Meredith Ely’s Behavior Modification class at USC Aiken you learn the key concepts of this psychology therapy in a classroom setting. You also make weekly visits to the Aiken County Animal Shelter to learn how to train homeless dogs.

“My role is taking what students are doing with the dogs and facilitating how it pertains to what they’re learning in the classroom,” Ely explained.

Now in its second year, the program has already gained popularity at USC Aiken, with students eager to spend time with shelter dogs for credit. Three hours a week are devoted to lecture and discussion; but one hour a week involves working closely with dogs on the adoption floor.

This year, Ely decided to join the students for this hands-on part of the program.

“I’ve learned the importance of getting to know the personalities of the dogs and what it means to work with a dog that may have been neglected and is now craving love and attention,” she said. “I think it’s a really important skill to perceive what each dog’s strengths and weaknesses are from both a behavior modification aspect and a broader psychological aspect.”

Besides teaching students psych concepts and providing them with valuable learning tools, the class also helps to prepare dogs for their permanent homes.

When shelter canines receive more time and attention, it makes them more trusting and confident—which makes them more adoptable. In fact, the extra human attention can save their lives by better ensuring they will make good pets and be on their best behavior after adoption.

For the first five weeks of class, the students enjoy the group instruction from Susi Cohen, one of the Shelter’s lead dog trainers. During the second five weeks, they apply what they’ve learned, socializing and walking dogs as FOTAS volunteers.

“I’ve been amazed at how sweet these dogs are,” said USC Aiken student Rachel Hopkins. “They seem so sad at first. But once they get out there with us, they do a complete 180, because they’re so happy being with people and getting attention.”

Hopkins said she’s gotten a little emotional at times seeing the many unwanted dogs, but the chance to learn while giving back to the community has been a valuable experience.

“During my first class, one of the dogs, Jett, rested his head on my lap for five straight minutes, and it really pulled at my heart how much he just wanted to be accepted and loved on,” she said. “But I was just informed that he was adopted this week, and that makes me feel wonderful.”

Science Center Turns 30, Silver Crescent Awarded at Gala

The Ruth Patrick Science Education Center celebrated three decades of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) programming for K-12 students. Since its inception, the center has logged more than 7.7 million program visits and upwards of $20 million in grants from regional businesses and industry. In 2018, the center’s 2,000-plus STEM-focused programs generated nearly 79,000 program visits by students, teachers, parents, and the public—including some 59,000 K-12 students from 106 schools in South Carolina and Georgia.

Among the various capacities in which he served the university, Priest’s most profound contribution was as the visionary first director of the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center. A committed STEM education advocate, he is credited with taking the center from concept to reality.

Members of the local legislative delegation presented the award on behalf of Governor Henry McMaster during the science center’s 30th anniversary celebration.

“The RPSEC will always have a special place in my heart,” said Priest. “I was given carte blanche to mold [the center] into whatever I thought would be best for our region. I was fortunate enough to hire a great staff that shared the same vision—the result of which we see today.”
more than prehensile thumbs, the relative size of our cerebral cortex, or a propensity for tools and technology, it is language and the way we communicate that set humans apart from other animals. The difference is so stark that no other species, no matter how subtle or sophisticated their vocalizations or body language, can be said to come close to the range and nuance of human expression.

Charmaine Wilson, chair of the USC Aiken Department of Communication, likened the study of communication to being given the keys to a heretofore unknown realm. “It makes you more aware of how communication and perception affect people, how they see you, how you see them, and how that in turn affects relationships,” she said. Wilson, who was drawn to her field while attending the University of Montana, was impressed by the direct and powerful way communication studies were applicable to human dynamics. “I had not yet been exposed to a study of things where the concepts and theories made so much sense.

Wilson, a recent recipient of the Lloyd Rohler Career Teaching Award, was a cofounder of the program at USC Aiken. It is now celebrating its 20th year of graduating culturally aware, critically savvy, and well-rounded students who are prepared to enter this field of unparalleled complexity. Founded on the twin pillars of theoretical study and applied knowledge, the genesis of the program was student demand, recalled Sandy Hochel, distinguished professor emeritus and also a co-founder of the program. “I very much believe in the importance of having a liberal arts education, teaching students basic problem solving skills, and critical reasoning,” she said. “But along with that, I knew that they needed those applied skills in communication, and that is what the students wanted.”

The deeper understanding of interpersonal dynamics, group dynamics, and behavior that the study of communication bestows is what impressed Wilson when she began her study in the field, and it may be the most useful thing students will take with them after they leave the program.

“People think that a communication degree is about learning what are often referred to as soft skills, but they aren’t so soft,” Wilson contended. “There is certainly more demand for these skills in the workplace, but learning how to manage conflicts, how to build relationships, how to end relationships in ways that are compassionate, how to be competent with digital communication—these are life skills that have a lot of value,” said Wilson.

“The key to the communication program at USC Aiken is the way it crosses many disciplinary lines, some in the humanities and some in the social sciences,” said Peggy Elliott, who was a senior instructor in the department and taught for 15 years. “Typically, a university will offer a communication degree that is linked to the philosophies of Aristotle. This program will feature in-depth studies of interpersonal, group, and public communication or public speaking. Alternatively, a university will offer a journalism degree focused on mass communication, often with a strong visual communication component. I believe our program is unusual because it allows students to study and apply both areas. The result is that students leave here with a wide scope of understanding.”

Creating an inviting and diverse program was another early priority, Elliott said. “Our chairs have worked diligently to make sure that we have faculty who have come from different kinds of backgrounds—women, people of color, and teachers with international backgrounds—so that we practice what we preach about leadership.”

A benefit of the program that you won’t find in the course catalog is the support that the department provides individual students. Wilson, the first in her family to attend college, knows something about the difficulties facing students who are unfamiliar with the college experience, and how that can stifle students from achieving their highest academic and professional potential. “I never thought, as an undergraduate, that I would go on in school. I don’t even think I knew about things like master’s degrees at that point,” she recalled. “We are a small department with just six full-time faculty, and we have worked hard to create an environment that is welcoming for our students.”

Communication Department Celebrates 20 Year Impact

BY CHRIS QUIRK

Charmaine Wilson lectures a class in the Student Activities Center.
Peggy Elliott reviews a project with Visual Communication student Connor Burney.

Elizabeth Webb

The whole idea of a college degree is that you will be smart enough and prepared enough, and that you will have the core resources you need to figure things out on the fly.”
impressed but not surprised. “It is certainly interesting to see Michael thrive in this field, especially since he did not have a medical background in college. But he is a compelling and persuasive person who is able to learn things in a changing environment quickly. It is great to see him working on projects like this to improve people’s lives.”

Christina Greene ’08 interned at a local news station for her capstone year. She now has a coveted position as a producer for the Professional Golfers’ Association’s (PGA) Tour Live, managing broadcasts and creating content for major PGA events. As part of her job, she has interviewed the likes of Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson, as well as local tour favorites Scott Brown and Kevin Kisner. “I’ve been in the TV business so long now that it’s just a normal thing to me. At first I was very nervous, because I know these guys are making millions of dollars. But once you sit down with them, they’re just like any other person. They’re doing their job.”

You might find Greene in the PGA Tour studios here in the U.S., producing clips for use in global broadcasts. Or you might find her in Europe or Australia covering tournaments. During live broadcasts, Greene usually works behind the scenes, as field marshal to numerous crew members simultaneously covering different parts of an event.

“At the studio, you’re the leader of your entire team, so it can get a little stressful at times. I constantly have to be two steps ahead.”

Greene’s use of technology in reporting began when she was covering Pac-12 sports as a student, and then while she worked as an intern at a local news station. “A friend and I created an online show covering the volleyball and basketball teams,” Greene recalled. “For the internship, I would shoot footage of football games on Friday nights, put together the show, and run it to the studio so the newcast could broadcast it that night.” Greene went on to work at several television news stations, including four years at the CBS station in Jacksonville, before signing up with the PGA Tour.

Greene’s story is an example of what students can do when given the tools to match their ambitions. Access to advanced technology has become more important for young professionals entering the media workforce. Advanced production skills, as well as in-depth training in image processing and other new technologies are sine qua non for communications professionals, whether they work in public relations, journalism, or other sectors.

“The entry level jobs are not just about writing anymore. The internet has an insatiable appetite for visuals, and those images and videos are now largely produced by people coming in at the entry level jobs.” Elliot explained. “We’ve scripted and saved every penny so that we could increase the technology available to students, like cameras and audio equipment. They’re using professional grade equipment right there at the college. Our students leave knowing this stuff, and it’s very advantageous for them.”

Of course, it’s not just technological hardware that is so quickly changing the communications and media environment. Social media platforms have increased the pace of communications, and upped the ante. Given the viral capacity of social media, a tweet by a single dissatisfied consumer can amplify into a widespread backlash against a company. An unflattering video can provoke a tsunami of negative coverage.

“We have added a crisis communication class to the curriculum, and one of the things we address is how organizations or groups need to be prepared for crises today,” Wilson said. “The nature of crises has changed with things like Twitter and Instagram, where somebody has a bad customer experience and suddenly there are 10,000 tweets and emails ripping your organization to shreds. If you’re in the communication department or public relations, what do you do? Even better, how do you minimize that risk to begin with?”

If academic disciplines sometimes come under fire for residing in an ivory tower, and with the media and political spheres effectively functioning as communication battlegrounds, the relevance of communication studies is evident—now more than ever. Recent reports of Russian involvement in the 2016 political campaign described attempts to leverage social media in society to target specific demographics with propaganda via Facebook and other social media. Mistrust in media is at an all-time high, and the technology to create fake video—the heretofore gold standard of veracity—is already available.

“As faculty, we talk about these problems all the time, and we are continually finding ways to explore contemporary issues across the courses in our curriculum,” said Webb.

The ways in which technology altered our communication habits has ramifications for our health and well-being. For example, a 2017 study by researchers from San Diego State University and Florida State University, published in Clinical Psychological Science, presented alarming correlations between increased smartphone use by teens and higher rates depression, suicide attempts, and suicide.

“There’s some convincing evidence out there that smartphone use is making it more difficult for young people to develop,” Wilson said. “Communicating with this little computer in your hand, or using the internet and Facebook completely changes the dynamics of human communication. When you read things on a screen, you are not making eye contact. Text messaging, Instagram, Twitter, and applications like that are making the communications environment very hard to navigate. What are the implications? How does this technology affect our relationships with other people? How do students react to it? There are ongoing challenges.”

To address these questions, the department is creating a new course in computer mediated communication, which will concentrate specifically on texting, social media platforms and other emerging technologies.

“I am confident we are preparing our students for success, personally and professionally,” said Webb. “And that’s one of the reasons why I love my job, because I think it’s important we’re doing both of those things. I’m proud of that.”

“There is an aspect of communication studies in which you are working to develop a whole person...” Hochel said. “Communicating with this little computer in your hand, or using the internet and Facebook completely changes the dynamics of human communication. When you read things on a screen, you are not making eye contact. Text messaging, Instagram, Twitter, and applications like that are making the communications environment very hard to navigate. What are the implications? How does this technology affect our relationships with other people? How do students react to it? There are ongoing challenges.”

“When I was in college and an instructor would talk about the importance of writing, and that is what we still strive for.”
In a trailblazing career that you could credibly say began in childhood, Carol Jantzen has racked up 11 patents, dozens of professional awards—including the South Carolina Governor’s Award for Excellence in Scientific Research—and scores of scientific papers and presentations. But a remarkable bit of prophecy precedes it all. A family photo shows her, not yet two years old, standing in a New Hampshire quarry with her father, wielding a wicked-looking pick hammer. It was the precocious start of a career in geology and materials science. “To say that I was predestined to be a scientist would be an understatement,” Jantzen said.

Jantzen is a consulting scientist (the top laboratory position) at the Savannah River National Laboratory, where she has worked since 1982. In addition to her estimable professional career, she recently became interested philanthropy, a happy turn of events for the Ruth Patrick Science and Education Center. She is donating an extensive collection of rocks and minerals, amassed over decades by Jantzen and her father to the center. The Fredericks Mineral Gallery, named after her father in honor of his legacy in the field of science education, will be a centerpiece of the RPSEC and a must-see for anyone interested in geology.

Jantzen grew up in Brooklyn and Queens, New York, the daughter and only child of parents of German heritage. Born in a hospital just around the corner from the leafy, residential street on which the young family resided, Jantzen still has the bill for her birth from the now defunct hospital. (It came to $71.50.) “It’s no wonder the hospital went out of business,” Jantzen joked.

Jantzen’s father was a geology enthusiast, and a member of a geology club in New York. Club members would take field trips to different quarries around the region to collect samples. Soon he started his own company, creating rock and mineral education kits with small samples that he sold to local museums. “I have one of just about every little rock and mineral kit that he ever made,” Jantzen said. Each kit came with an educational booklet; the foreword was written by Frederick Pough, a renowned geologist and a curator at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

Young Carol often accompanied her father on field trips during the summer, helping to collect rock samples and putting them in sacks her father would purchase at local feed grain stores for shipment back to New York. When they returned home at the end of the summer they would find piles of gunnysacks loaded with rocks in the driveway. Her father used a rock crusher to process the samples for the kits, and Carol would label them while watching television. Her father paid her 7 cents per dozen labels.

At Queens College, where Jantzen received her bachelor’s degree in geology and master’s in geochemistry, she became particularly...
fascinated with crystal formations and the strange and beautiful shapes they took. She also was interested in molten magma, volcanoes, and lava flow, and did her field research on the Canadian Shield and in Puerto Rico.

Geology is not for wimps. In the field, Jantzen remembers bushwhacking her way with a machete through dense foliage in the scorching sun in Puerto Rico. “It’s not glamorous in any way shape or form,” she said. “You are lugging heavy survey gear, but you have to stay covered up with long pants and long sleeves or the bugs will eat you alive. And invariably at some point on the trip your car breaks down.”

Along with the physical and intellectual challenges, sexism was another barrier Jantzen had to contend with in the field. “There weren’t many women in geology then. The professors were fairly even-handed when it came to your abilities, but every once in a while you ran into a biased professor who didn’t think women belonged in geology,” she recalled.

For instance, one particular project she was involved in while at the State University of New York at Stony Brook—showing them to the driver.” Nevertheless, she persisted. “I wasn’t going to waste my time sitting in the parking lot with the bus. I took it all in stride at the time, but it makes you feel out of place.”

One instance in particular piqued the ire of the usually phlegmatic Jantzen. On a field trip with her class to a coal mine in Pennsylvania, the miners refused to let Jantzen, the only woman in the group, into the mine. “They said it was bad luck, and that I had to stay in the parking lot with the bus. I took it all in stride at the time, but it makes you feel out of place.”

Nevertheless, she persisted. “I wasn’t going to waste my time sitting on the bus. I took the bus driver out to scout around the parking lot. There were actually a lot of flat pieces with fern fossils mixed in with the gravel, which they must have taken from the mines, and I showed them to the drivers.”

Soon after earning her doctorate in materials science and engineering at the State University of New York at Stony Brook—which included a stint at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland she was recommended by a colleague for a joint project with SRNL and Penn State University to study the use of ceramic and glass for nuclear waste disposal. “I did the interview and they were like, ‘Don’t let her out the door until she signs a contract!’” Jantzen said.

Jantzen joined SRNL at a time when the lab was seeking new ways to stabilize nuclear waste from the facility. She became the chief scientist on the project to perfect a method for fusing the waste into a glass-like form—a process called vitrification.

“What’s interesting about the process is that there may be two-thirds of the elements in the periodic table in that waste. You basically have this tank full of dog’s breakfast,” Jantzen explained. “Then you would add what was essentially chopped-up Pyrex and heat it to a high temperature to create a sludge that would be poured into large steel containers.” As it cools, the waste and Pyrex-like material solidify into a single phase glass unit. It sounds as straightforward as making a stew, but the chemistry is highly complex, and there are numerous pitfalls that must be avoided to make the plan work.

That is where Jantzen’s genius for modeling played a vital role. She had so much technical expertise, and was always very gracious and helpful. She kind of adopted me and my husband, William, and helped us over for Thanksgiving dinners.”

Jantzen coauthored one of Ramsey’s first scientific papers. “Carol brought her geology background, and understood what analogues were already out there in science—that’s been out there for thousands of years in nature—and how to equate that with glass performance in the environment. That meant she could prove to the stakeholders how these materials were going to perform over the long term.”

William Ramsey, a fellow technical adviser at SRNL, has worked extensively with Jantzen. He explained why creating the models that would demonstrate the material’s viability over time was such a crucial, and tricky, part of the process.

Without a doubt, the hardest dimension to scale is time, and Carol’s great insight to look to nature for guidance was key. So we did lots of different durability tests, and Carol led the effort to get the one we selected for certification by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). It was a big project done in coordination with other national labs, Corning Glass, and different folks at other universities, and it was an important part of public acceptance. We had to demonstrate that this stuff was going to be a viable, quality product for a geological time frame.”

Herman also credits Jantzen’s combination of detailed knowledge about materials and broad scientific outlook in bringing the project to successful completion. “We tend to say some people learn a little bit about the glass, or they learn a little bit about something else out here,” she said. “Carol is one of the very few people who understands things from start to finish, and why that all matters. She taught me the importance of trying to instill that kind of thought process into the folks that worked for me. It’s not just your piece of the project—you need to care about the bigger picture here.”

Despite her achievements, Jantzen has frequently found herself having to over-perform in order to be considered an equal. In 1996, she was named president of the American Ceramic Society, after serving on the board of directors for 14 years. She was the first woman to hold that position since the organization was founded nearly a century ago. At SRNL, she encountered a situation right out of the film Hidden Figures, which tells the story of the influential African American women who worked on NASA’s Apollo program in the 1960s. “They had a women’s restroom in the building where I worked at SRNL,” Jantzen recounted, “but it was very, very far away from my office. It was like they had not planned for this.”

Herman described the odd paradox of confidence and deference that women had to navigate during her early years at SRNL. “Carol and I talked about how you had to be more confident and have your facts together more than men. But if you were a woman expressing an opinion, the reaction might be, ‘Oh, what’s wrong with her?’ So it was a challenge for us, and something Carol and I—and probably other female managers—have had to overcome through the years, of just proving yourself a little bit more than some of your male peers.”

Ramsey recalled a particular scene from the testing process. “The people working on that project were a high-powered group, and in this business there are a lot of egos involved, so naturally there was some rivalry,” he said. “When we were doing the durability test for the ASTM, we were the ones that were trying to get it through, while other folks could take pot shots, and some people got really tetchy. I bought Carol a pair of Everlast boxing gloves, and she wore them to one of those meetings. She walked in and she was kind of joking, but she was also ready to go. It broke the ice and tells you something about Carol.”

Ann Ramsey, a fellow engineer at SRNL, has worked with Jantzen for many years. Jantzen coauthored one of Ramsey’s first scientific papers. “Carol was always inspirational to me as a young female engineer. She was a great colleague and someone I aspired to be like. She had so much technical expertise, and was always very gracious and helpful. She kind of adopted me and my husband, William, and had us over for Thanksgiving dinners.”
Scott Reboul is a board member and former chair of the RPSEC. He has worked with Jantzen at SRNL. “Carol has a great reputation at SRNL, and pretty much anything she touches there has turned to gold. She is very innovative and intelligent. I also appreciated her generosity. Just about a month after I arrived, she offered me a project that she herself had won funding for.” Reboul also became a combat between Jantzen and RPSEC. “We had periodic meetings at SRNL and I’d write a blurb in the report about what we were discussing at the Ruth Patrick Center,” Reboul said. “Carol happened to read it one day and started talking about a contribution, and making the center a home for this amazing rock and minerals collection that she and her father had assembled.”

Jantzen’s father had died, and she was looking for a way to make the collection available to the public while keeping it together. The RPSEC was a natural fit. The collection contains about 700 items, including a massive, 250-pound chunk of feldspar crystal estimated to be at least 250 million years old, and a velociraptor egg that is likely older than that.

“She’s a wonderful person to work with, and we deeply appreciate her interest in science, and her desire to provide opportunities for people of all ages to learn more about STEM. I am just amazed at what she has done with this gift, and what she’s providing to us.”

Senn said of the outstanding things about Jantzen’s collection is the size and distinctive forms of many of the samples. “It’s expensive to get minerals that are that big, and that have those beautiful crystal structures,” she said, “That was a real treasure for me as an educator, to be able to show some of those things to the students in the classes I was teaching. Kids would ask me all the time, ‘Did a person make those shapes? I would explain how the crystals grow in nature into these incredible forms. So for me it just shows the variety and amazing diversity that is there in nature.” Senn said that Jantzen’s gift will allow the RPSEC to broaden its offerings in science education consistent with its core mission.

We have maybe 10 or 15 different programs that focus on rocks and minerals now, and they are great. But with the addition of the Fredericks Mineral Gallery, we will be able to support more hands-on opportunities for students to interact with the minerals. They can see, feel, touch, smell, and in some cases actually taste them—because there are things that we taste that once were rocks and minerals. Having students use all their senses to explore that aspect of science will enhance their experience greatly.”

The velociraptor egg, like all things dinosaur, was one sample in particular that captivated the imagination of a group of young students. “They were very excited,” said Smalley. “Carol let them all come up and touch it, and she also had a display to show what kind of skeleton it would have had, and the kind of raptor it would have come from.”

One student approached the fossil with trepidation. “Is a velociraptor going to come out of there?”

“No, it’s millions of years old,” Jantzen replied. “That’s a lot of zeroes.”

Senn underscored the impact that the donation would have on the community. “Among our stakeholders are the children, students, teachers, and citizens of the area. The Fredericks Mineral Collection will be a rich resource to all of them for years to come.”

“Carol is humble and generous and thoughtful,” said Smalley. “She could have kept this collection to herself or passed it down to her family, but she is so dedicated to education, she wanted to share this legacy. It’s a wonderful gesture.”
Who's Number 1 . . . Again?!
Leading Forward Together

BY MEREDITH GRACE HAWCROFT

The 2019 rankings from U.S. News and World Report declared the University of South Carolina Aiken the number one regional public college in the South—for the 14th time.

This latest distinction comes at a critical time, when members of the campus body and senior administrators are engaged in reflection and assessment. Forward Together, the university’s strategic five-year plan, officially came to a close at the end of the 2017-2018 academic year. Now, the results of that ambitious plan are beginning to manifest in U.S. News and World Report’s annual evaluation, as well as in daily campus operations.

“Our mission defines our goals; our goals define our actions, which we measured against 143 metrics, and which we now measure against the test of time and practice,” said USC Aiken’s fourth chancellor, Sandra Jordan. “It was an ambitious strategic plan that we undertook in 2012. As I review our goals and achievements, I can say that we have indeed moved forward together.”

The university devised four main goals for Forward Together. The first of these goals, and possibly the most impactful, was to enroll, retain, develop, and graduate a diverse student body. This has been accomplished through a myriad initiatives.

“Our reason for being is to serve the community around us as a public comprehensive university with a regional focus,” said Jordan. “One of our bragging points is the diversity of our student body, which is one of the most diverse among the state’s public universities. That means we’re serving our region well. We do this not by lowering standards but by making certain we provide appropriate levels of support to students who are willing to do their part to learn.”

In our community, this message starts at the elementary school and prepared them for dynamic futures. I welcome the student here and that they are bright, capable and full of promise.”

Andrew Hendrix, the director of admissions, acknowledged the support to students who are willing to do their part to learn.

“Our focus is on our students and their futures. Our goal is to provide an excellent educational opportunity for students and see them go off into amazing careers and make a difference in the world. And we’re going to celebrate every accomplishment along the way,” Timmons said. One factor that sometimes inhibits students from completing their college degree, said Timmons, is financial limitations; retention is strongly impacted by scholarships provided by donors. Such generosity directly impacts student success.

Graduation and retention are a priority for university administrators, as well as for U.S. News and World Report officials. Thirty-five percent of a school’s rank is determined by its success at retaining and graduating students within a six-year period. According to U.S. News and World Report, “It receives the highest weight in our rankings because degree completion is necessary to receive the full benefits of undergraduate study from employers and graduate schools.”

USC Aiken has updated teaching practices to make earning a degree a more attainable goal for all students.

“We’ve boosted student retention and graduation rates by offering success component. When I first started in higher education, it wasn’t uncommon for faculty to say, ‘Look to your left. Look to your right. Half of you won’t be here next semester.’ The concept of student success simply did not exist. Now, instead of asking if students are ready to come to college, campuses like ours ask if are we ready to make a positive impact on the students we receive,” said Jordan. This student-centered focus has increased enrollment, and it has also increased retention. Thanks to intentional efforts from faculty and staff, students are now more likely to stay at USC Aiken throughout their academic careers and graduate from the university.

Darrin Timmons, the interim executive vice chancellor of academic affairs, explained that the university has focused on retention rates of first-year students through “personal attention from faculty and staff, as well as valuable campus resources such as the Writing Room and the Center for Student Achievement.”

“Our mission defines our goals; our goals define our actions, which we measured against 143 metrics, and which we now measure against the test of time and practice.”

Andrew Hendrix, the director of admissions, acknowledged the support to students who are willing to do their part to learn.

“The credibility of being in the top three for 21 years—and being number one for 14 of those years—is in some ways priceless. This speaks to the great work done by our faculty, administrators, and leadership. It also comes down to our students who, for the most part, try very hard to succeed,” Hendrix said. USC Aiken strives to provide students with social mobility and a pathway to success, which is now something that U.S. News and World Report is starting to factor into institution rankings.

“They are now looking at metrics related to student success. We believe that’s why we’re in business: to help students be successful and prepare them for dynamic futures. I welcome the student
more flexible educational options," said Chancellor Jordan. "By increasing the number of online classes, for example, we saw a jump in student enrollment. And the average size of our online classes is small—just 13 students."

"We’ve been purposeful in helping our students adjust to college life and the rigor of academics. We strive to help students stay at USC Aiken and be successful in their degree completion. As with any worthwhile goal, there are typically some challenges, but we are here to give students the tools they need to overcome those challenges," said Timmons.

Retention is particularly important for veteran and military students on campus. Robert Murphy, who is the director of the Veteran and Military Student Success Center (VMSSC) frequently sees veteran and military students arrive at USC Aiken after being enrolled in other institutions. Military service can result in frequent moves for both service members and their families, making it difficult to complete a degree. Murphy and his colleagues in the center are dedicated to helping USC Aiken be the final stop in their educational journey.

This support has helped our veteran and military student population flourish. In 2012, before the Forward Together initiatives began, there were only 150 military and veteran students at USC Aiken. Now the university boasts more than 500, many of whom are military spouses or family members.

The accomplishments of the VMSSC have resulted in several major awards specific to their mission, including recognition as a military spouse-friendly school, as one of the best colleges for veterans by U.S. News and World Report. "These awards demonstrate the seriousness with which this institution [regards] educating students and preparing them for a future," Murphy said.

Murphy recognizes the impact that the Veteran and Military Student Success Center has on the student population. "For me, it gets very personal," Murphy said. "That’s who I am—I’m a military person. My father was in the military, so is my son. Now my son is transitioning out of the military, and I only hope there is a resource like our organization to help him. When I look at all of these military people here, I have a responsibility to make sure they have the best transitional support services that they can be provided."

The third primary goal of Forward Together was to develop and manage resources effectively, efficiently and ethically to support the university’s mission. The university sought to reduce spending by revising contracts, identifying new IT resources for existing expenses and restructurings. Chancellor Jordan said, "I am proud of our cost savings and cost avoidance. That’s money we can put to good use, such as improving the appearance of our buildings and enhancing ways in which we’re serving our students."

Alumni contributions remained another valued source of support. In recent years, there were alumni councils formed to help graduates across the state remain engaged in their alma mater. Several more councils are in the planning stages. These efforts have resulted in an eight percent increase in alumni event fundraising and endowments. Statistics are important, because they demonstrate a deepening alumni connection to the university. U.S. News maintains that giving measures student satisfaction and postgraduate engagement. The university is proud that alumni continue to participate and give of their time, talents and resources to help Pacers advance in their mission. Alumni also directly benefit from the recognition that the university has received. It contributes to a positive institutional reputation and increase the value of a degree from USC Aiken.

The fourth goal of the strategic plan was to create collaborative partnerships and innovative solutions to advance our community, region and state. USC Aiken has far exceeded the expectations set by this goal.

One of the university’s most notable partnerships is with the Aiken County School District through the Aiken Scholars Academy. This program, which opened to its first 50 students in the fall of 2018, provides an elite education to motivated students and is a new model for the state of South Carolina. Because the high school is located on the USC Aiken campus, these students have the unique opportunity to take advantage of the university’s resources. They enroll in college courses and earn college credit by the time they begin their junior year in high school—at no cost to the student or their families. Juniors and seniors may take all of their classes at the university with expenses completely covered by the school system.

University administrators believe that this partnership provides tangible benefits to the citizens of Aiken County by deploying the university’s intellectual capital and assets for the good of high school students in a way not typically found in a non-urban community.

In addition to educational programs for all age groups at the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center and the Scholar’s Academy for 200 highly motivated high school students, USC Aiken is a popular destination for high school juniors and seniors who want to take advantage of the dual-enrollment program.

“Partnering with high schools to provide exceptional educational options, including access to high-quality dual enrollment courses, helps USC Aiken to advance its mission to serve the CSRA. We are at a record number of about 125 students in that program as of fall 2018, and those are students who are in our pipeline to be recruited..."
New Degree Programs

- Applied Computer Science
- Applied Computer Science (concentration in Applied Gaming)
- Applied Computer Science (concentration in Cybersecurity)
- Applied Mathematics
- Biology (concentration in Molecular Biology)
- Chemistry (concentration in Biochemistry)
- Clinical Lab Sciences
- Communication (concentration in Digital Arts)
- Industrial Process Engineering
- Masters of Business Administration (MBA)
- Masters in Educational Leadership

as they graduate high school. Typically, over a third of these students choose to enroll at USC Aiken,” said Hendrix.

Admissions data factor into the success of the university, but they are by no means solely responsible for our top ranking. Daniel Robb, the associate vice chancellor for enrollment management, said, “Our many alums, donors, community members and current students are part of the reason why USC Aiken has been so recognized by U.S. News and others. That’s the true tribute to the university: our students, our alumni and the support of the community. It is awfully nice that the decisions we make here, and the success that many people have here, can earn us that recognition.”

USC Aiken has clearly seen success over the last 21 years. Recent years have been especially productive, as the university focused intentionally on its goals.

“We have made progress on every goal of our strategic plan. This is what happens when a community moves forward together, with a solidarity of purpose,” said Chancellor Jordan.

These initiatives have resulted in a thriving campus that is recognized regionally and nationally. With the launch of the new strategic plan, Leading Forward, USC Aiken looks forward to future successes—and gratefully acknowledges the continuing support of alumni, donors and friends.
USC Aiken’s annual holiday celebration—formerly Snowflake Serenade, now Jingle and Jazz—found a new venue in 2018: the Aiken Center for the Arts. During the event, the university recognized donors, supporters, leadership groups, and elected officials. Guests were treated to seasonal favorites performed by members of the USC Aiken Jazz Ensemble and accompanied by several students, faculty, alumni and several friends of the university. The program was directed by saxophone instructor Lauren Meccia.

Chancellor Sandra Jordan shared some of the university’s notable accomplishments in 2018 year. These included a top ranking by U.S. News and World Report—for the 14th time, numerous accolades for the Veteran and Military Student Success Center, the opening of the Aiken Scholars Academy, a new faculty affiliate program agreement with Savannah River National Lab, and the launch of several new degree programs.

Photos from the event follow.

Thank you!

As the University of South Carolina Aiken enters its 2019 spring semester, I am happy to announce that we are officially an All-Steinway School! This prestigious distinction demonstrates a commitment to excellence and an unparalleled educational experience for our students and faculty. In partnership with Steinway and Sons, USC Aiken can now provide our students with the best musical instruments so they can maximize their talents, prepare to compete at the highest level, and realize their artistic goals.

The All-Steinway School designation is just one of the university’s many fundraising accomplishments. Donors support USC Aiken every day through endowed scholarships, athletic and enhanced faculty program support, and alumni and general support.

In this edition of the USC Aiken magazine, I am proud to recognize our donors at the $500-plus level who supported the university during our last fiscal year (July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018). They are the generous alumni, parents, and friends who continue to give in support of higher education. Their philanthropy profoundly impacts our work on behalf of our students.

Every gift represents a commitment to excellence at USC Aiken. I invite you to review the Honor Roll for a snapshot of our donor community and to see the positive impact that your support has on our students.

The December Jingle and Jazz celebration reinvigorated our thank you event for donors. This year, we honored Beth Newburn as our USC Aiken volunteer of the year and Representative William “Bill” Clyburn Sr. as our distinguished citizen of the year.

Please know how truly thankful I am for this support, which continues our mission of educating tomorrow’s leaders.

Sincerely,

Sandra J. Jordan
Chancellor, USC Aiken

Donor Honor Roll

USC Aiken is grateful for your support.

JINGLE & JAZZ

USC Aiken’s annual holiday celebration—formerly Snowflake Serenade, now Jingle and Jazz—found a new venue in 2018: the Aiken Center for the Arts. During the event, the university recognized donors, supporters, leadership groups, and elected officials. Guests were treated to seasonal favorites performed by members of the USC Aiken Jazz Ensemble and accompanied by several students, faculty, alumni and several friends of the university. The program was directed by saxophone instructor Lauren Meccia.

Chancellor Sandra Jordan shared some of the university’s notable accomplishments in 2018 year. These included a top ranking by U.S. News and World Report—for the 14th time, numerous accolades for the Veteran and Military Student Success Center, the opening of the Aiken Scholars Academy, a new faculty affiliate program agreement with Savannah River National Lab, and the launch of several new degree programs.

Photos from the event follow.
Pacesetters ($1–$499): Leaders and initiators, these donors give proudly and inspire others to do the same.

Penland Partners ($500–$999): Representing all of the founders who gave so generously of their time, talent, and resources to our growing university, Penland Partners give to continue the honor and tradition of USC Aiken’s forefathers.

Pacer Spirit Society ($1,000–$2,499): These donors promote the Pacer spirit embodied in the Spirit Horse, which stands proudly at the entrance to our campus.

Stetson Society ($2,500–$4,999): All institutions have leaders who gave so generously of their time, talent, and resources to their growing university, Stetson Society applauds those leaders on whose shoulders we stand—making USC Aiken a more progressive university.

Secondary education major, Alex Richardson, shared his gratitude for the community partners and donors who helped him achieve his academic and professional goals.

GIVING LEVELS

Effective July 1, 2018

Pacesetters ($1–$499): Leaders and initiators, these donors give proudly and inspire others to do the same.

Penland Partners ($500–$999): Representing all of the founders who gave so generously of their time, talent, and resources to our growing university, Penland Partners give to continue the honor and tradition of USC Aiken’s forefathers.

Pacer Spirit Society ($1,000–$2,499): These donors promote the Pacer spirit embodied in the Spirit Horse, which stands proudly at the entrance to our campus.

Stetson Society ($2,500–$4,999): All institutions have leaders who are innovative and forward thinking. The Stetson Society applauds those leaders on whose shoulders we stand—making USC Aiken a more progressive university.

Gregg-Graniteville Circle ($5,000–$9,999): Honoring the legacy of the Gregg-Graniteville Company and its historic emphasis on education, this leadership society recognizes donors who support the advancement of higher education at USC Aiken.

Bankia Founders Society ($10,000–$24,999): Commemorating the early graduates of USC Aiken, Bankia Founders recognizes those who gave at levels that provide substantial support to promote programs, facilities, or scholarships.

Chancellor’s Cabinet ($25,000–$99,999): The Chancellor’s Cabinet recognizes donors whose gifts build on the university’s tradition of excellence and innovation.

Pickens-Salley Circle ($100,000 and Above)

Anonymous

Aiken Regional Medical Centers
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC
Mrs. Nathalie Elizabeth Smith and Mr. Edward Harding
The First Tier of Aiken (Donors to the More Than a Game Campaign)

Chancellor’s Circle ($25,000 to $99,999)

Anonymous

ADP Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Allman
Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations
Aiken County Plant
Ms. Elizabeth Cummings and Mr. Ben Cox
Ms. Doriana L. Farrar†
Dr. Sandra T. Field and Mr. James S. Field
The Foundation of the National Student Gilfillan & Associates, Incorporated
Mr. and Mrs. Billy Horne
Dr. Carol S. Botsch and Dr. Robert E. Botsch

Bankia Founders Society ($10,000 to $24,999)

Anonymous

Aiken-Augusta Wounded Warrior Charity Golf Classic
Aiken Pest Control

Pickens-Salley Circle ($100,000 plus): The highest level of recognition, the Pickens-Salley Circle honors those donors whose generous gifts are transformative for USC Aiken, our students, and faculty, and, by extension, our community.

Deceased

† Deceased

Gifts received during the last fiscal year (July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018)

Aiken Sertoma Club
Applied Research Center Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Zane Christopher, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Lou Collie
Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Consolidated
Mr. Barbara Baumann and Mr. Mike Conrad
Dr. and Mrs. Gerard Engelnholm
Dr. Rose O. Hayes
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Herah
Hospital Auxiliary of Aiken County
Mr. Scott Beale Hunter†
Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Martini
Mended Hearts Inc. Chapter 294
Mrs. Lillian Mesera
Mr. and Mrs. Donald T. Nicolaisen
Ms. Sarah T. Patterson
Ms. Gary D. Peters
Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Pistole
Ms. Mary H. Shultz
Mr. and Mrs. T. Scott Smith
Mr. L. K. Sonnenberg
The Community Foundation for the Central Savannah River Area
The Ford Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Tucker

Gregg-Graniteville Foundation, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Haran
Honeywell Federal Manufacturing & Technologies
Humanities Council of SC
Kimberly Clark Corporation
Mr. and Mrs. Stewart D. Maurice
Meybohm Realtors
Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Newburn
Dr. and Mrs. Robert G. Phillips
Ms. Carole Pincavage
Mr. Charles P. Reeve
Ms. Matej Shaw and Mr. Edward A. Reeye
SC Soybean Board
Mr. Leslie Shayne Sonnenberg
Mrs. Mary Jo Usher Steel
Dr. Charmaine F. Wilson
and Mr. Terence J. Voss

Stetson Society ($2,500 to $4,999)

Anonymous

Aiken Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Alison South Marketing Group
B & S Machine Tool
American Association of University Women
Anonymous
Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Alexander
Anonymous
Anonymous
Dr. and Mrs. Robert G. Phillips
Mrs. Sarah T. Patterson
Mr. and Mrs. Donald T. Nicolaisen
Mrs. Mary Jo Usher Steel
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Henson, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Norbert C. Gelinski, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Henson, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Todd C. Bogg
Dr. Carol S. Botsch and Dr. Robert E. Botsch
Ms. Alicia Brayboy Brooks
Chandler Law Firm, P.A.
Mr. and Mrs. Everett Chandler
Mr. and Mrs. Norbert C. Gelinski, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Henson, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Norbert C. Gelinski, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Henson, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Norbert C. Gelinski, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Henson, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Henson, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Henson, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Henson, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Henson, Jr.
Key Volunteer Honored

The university presented Beth Newburn with the inaugural Volunteer of the Year Award at the annual holiday event honoring supporters. A longtime champion of the Etherredge Center and a friend of the venue’s namesake couple, Newburn has advocated for the university for many years. Most recently, she served as co-chair of USC Aiken’s All-Steinway campaign.

Pacer Spirit Society
($1,000 to $2,499)

Anonymous
Ms. and Mrs. John "Coach" Abshire
Aiken County Historical Society
Aiken Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society
Aiken Ophthalmology
Dr. and Mrs. Edward L. Albenesius
Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America
Mr. and Mrs. John Andrews
Dr. and Mrs. Anselmo L. Arthur
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy L. Baker
Mr. Dub Bankes
Ms. Patricia Strong Barrett
Bechtel National, Inc.
Mr. James R. Beers
Mr. and Mrs. John P. Benjamin
The Benwood Foundation
Ms. Kathy Brantley
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Brumson
Dr. Robert L. Buchanan III
Dr. and Mrs. Robert L. Buckle
Mr. Joseph Buggy† and Mrs. Kay Buggy
Bunty, LLC - Engineered Solutions
Ms. Julie J. Bush
Ms. Patricia A. Samuel
and Dr. Edward J. Callen
Mr. and Mrs. William Callcott, Jr.
Central Carolina Community Foundation
Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick D. Cunning
Ms. Irene Y. Curtis
D. L. Scurry Foundation
Ms. and Mrs. Roger Dane
Ms. Nelson A. Danish
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Daugherty
Mrs. Cheryl Elliott-Dawe
and Dr. Lloyd A. Dawe
Delta Kappa Gamma-Beta Delta Chapter
Mr. and Mrs. Steven E. Driscoll
Mr. and Mrs. Randy R. Duckett
Dr. and Mrs. Gregory L. Eaves
Dr. John A. Elliot, CPA
Dr. Phyllis Anne Ellison
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Enter
Ms. Barbara S. Fenstermacher
Mr. Carl C. Fields and Mrs. Linda R. Wright
Ms. Barbara L. Floyd
Dr. and Mrs. Michael Fowler
Mrs. Heidi A. Frazier
Friends of the Aiken County Museum
The GE Foundation
Ms. and Mrs. Michael E. Gelinas
Mrs. and Mrs. Hilary and Samantha George
Ms. Susan Forrest Gove
Ms. Maureen E. Gruel
Career Educator, Legislator Named Distinguished Citizen


Sandra Jordan presented the award at the December holiday event honoring donors and supporters.
Kirk and Cathy Pitts
Mary Lou and Jeff Wallace
Paul and Debbie Deason
Lois and Ray Parker
Patti and Etheridge Knight
Kirk and Cathy Pitts
Ellen and Jeff Priest
Paul and Debbie Deason

Ms. Helen H. Naylor
Mr. and Mrs. Rick N. Osbon
Professor David G. Owen and Mrs. Owen
Ms. Marie Paddelford
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Parker
Partners in Friendship
PE-O. Sisterhood Chapter AI
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Pryor
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kirk Pitts
Presbyterian Foundation
Project Management Institute
RCS Corporation/Carlos and Karen Garcia
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur W. Rich
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne E. Rickman
Mr. Russell B. Rinehart
Sand River Woman’s Club
Mr. Austin B. Scott, Jr. †
and Mrs. Susan Jane Scott
Mrs. Barbara Scott
Security Federal Bank
Dr. and Mrs. Gary J. Jenn
South Boundary, LLC
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
SRSCRO
Ms. Martha A. Lockhart
and Mr. Barry W. Stevens
Mr. and Mrs. Tony Street
Texton
The Student Club
Dr. and Mrs. John Tiffany
Dr. and Mrs. Darren J. Timmons
Mr. Frampton W. Toole III
university Health Care Foundation
Ms. Kimberly A. Usery
Mr. and Mrs. John E. Vedery
Mr. Hugh L. Verones
Mr. and Mrs. Paul C. Vestal
Mr. and Mrs. William S. Victor
W. H. Reeves & Company, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Randolph Warrick
Mr. Daryl Webb
Mr. and Mrs. Paul L. Weinkle
Mr. Jack Wetzel
Mrs. Linda R. Wright and Mr. Carl C. Fields
Mr. and Mrs. Michael C. Wood, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Zalousdek

Penland Partners
($500 to $999)
Anonymous
AECOM
AgSouth Farm Credit
Aiken Running Club
Aiken Woman’s Club
Alpha Delta Kappa/Delta Chapter
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
American Concrete Institute
Carolina’s Chapter
American Society of Civil Engineers,
CSRV Branch
Mr. and Mrs. Bijan Amini
Dr. David J. Anna
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Ansede
Mr. Matthew Armitage
Mr. and Mrs. George Arthur
Atlantic Broadband SC LLC
AT&T
Mr. and Mrs. John Tiffany
Dr. L. Julia Ball and Mr. Arthur Anthony Ball
Ms. Lily Baualm and Mr. H. Barry Tompkins
Mr. and Mrs. John R. Beeland
Mrs. Sara T. Beeland
Mrs. Doris Dean Begley
Mr. and Mrs. William Frank Brussey
Ms. Caroline Bruck
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Burns
Mr. W. Codran Campbell †
and Mrs. Anne D. Campbell
Capalino Company
Ms. Jane Masley Carter
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy E. Chandler
Dr. Sandra J. Chubon
and Dr. Robert A. Chubon
City of Aiken
Ms. Alicia Duer Cohen
Professor Vicki J. Collins
and Mr. David Collins
Mr. and Mrs. William R. Cur
Dr. and Mrs. Andrew M. Corlina
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald R. Davis
Dr. and Mrs. Paul T. Deason
Ms. Susan Delrey
Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Denderson
Ms. Heidi A. DiFranco
Ms. Catheryn F. Dranitsis
and Mr. James R. Cadeaux, Jr.
Economic Development Partnership
Mrs. Karen Edington
and Mr. Anthony Edington
Mrs. Peggy O’Neal Elliott
Mr. and Mrs. Scott A. Elliott
Enactus
Mrs. Sherry E. Manley-Engel
and Mr. Leonard E. Engel, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Evans
Mr. and Mrs. Carey S. Feraldi
Fidelity Charitable
Ms. Donna K. Fletcher
and Mr. Tom Foster
Mrs. Stephanie Franklin
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Charles Frederick
Mr. and Mrs. Lars Gacad
Dr. and Mrs. Stanford Taylor Garnett III
Mr. and Mrs. Greg Goodwin
Dr. DeAnna L. Gore
Mr. and Mrs. Dale K. Haas

† Deceased
For this issue we depart from our usual featured photograph of alumni in familiar and favorite locations around Aiken. Instead, we shine the spotlight on some of our donors.

We invited some of our generous friends to participate in these photo shoots inspired by the work of the brilliant Annie Leibovitz. Unfortunately, it was not possible to photograph all of our donors—but we are delighted to share these images, the first of many to come. First, we feature some of the ladies who are so important to the success of the university and to the quality of life in Aiken. Sissy Brodie, who has lived in Aiken for more than 80 years, hosted graciously offered to host the photo shoot for our featured ladies in her lovely home, the decor of which inspired our “winter white” theme.

Over the years, Sissy has made a name for herself through her love of southern hospitality, etiquette, tradition, and most of all, fashion. She also has a reputation for giving back to her community. She makes pillows for friends in the hospital and teddy bears for families who’ve lost loved ones, she picks up weary bicyclists traveling through Aiken, hosts tea parties for young girls and teaches them proper etiquette. She is, indeed, a lady with “hat-itude.”

Our second photo features the gentlemen taken at Rose Hill, an estate that was part of Aiken’s Winter Colony. The property on which Rose Hill stands was originally owned by Confederate soldier Alfred Holmes and the original Antebellum home is believed to have been destroyed during the Battle of Aiken. Nearly 30 years after the end of the Civil War, the property and temperate climate caught the attention of a family from the Northeast as the site for their winter home.

In 1898, Colonel and Mrs. Sheffield Phelps commissioned the construction of their city block-long winter home atop the high point of downtown Aiken. The Dutch colonial shingle style architecture of the main house (nearly 10,000 sq. ft.) is the only example in the Southeast. The house was built over the remnants of the original Antebellum home. This home, named Rose Hill, later became the first property in Aiken to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

This summer the property was purchased by Ketan Patel, who intends to preserve its legacy. Born and raised in India, Patel has a degree in civil engineering. He has managed water projects in India, Kenya, and Tanzania, before relocating to the United States in 1991. Patel and his wife, Laju, have been Aiken residents since 2002. He owns numerous retail businesses and is also one of the founding partners of the Vista Schooling and Event Center.

We appreciate all of our donors and their generous support for USC Aiken’s mission and we are proud to showcase them in the Honor Roll (see page 44).
From left to right: Sandra Field, Patty Alshire, Carol Peters, Mary Andrews, Sissy Brodie, Sandra Jordan, Irene Curtis, and Connie Martini.
From left to right: (standing) Von Vegrove, Buzz Rich, Pres Rahe, Gary Peters and Ketan Patel
(seated) Chuck Munn, Coach Abshire, Reggie Ebner, Cody Anderson, Bill Tucker, Paul Deason and Lionel Smith
Education Alumni Accept National Awards

The South Carolina Association of Teacher Educators (SCATE) recognized several School of Education alumni at the annual conference at Coastal Carolina University in October.

Tiffany (Addison) Jones, an eighth-grade science teacher at Crayton Middle School, won the SCATE Student Teacher of the Year award. Tiffany Coleman, a third-grade teacher at Jefferson Elementary School, received the Cooperating Teacher of the Year award. And Lotashia Polite, a fourth-grade teacher at Allendale Elementary School, was awarded Cooperating Teacher of the Year Honors.

Said Dean Judy Beck, “I am so proud of our School of Education alumni and the impact they are making in classrooms across the state, especially in the lives of their students.”

Half-baked Dream Becomes Business Reality

In October, Karli Stone became the owner of Smallcakes bakery in North Augusta, South Carolina. It was the realization of a longtime dream, the road to which was inspired by a professor and a graduate school course. And, of course, a passion for baking.

While a graduate student in public administration, Stone enrolled in Brent Hoover’s entrepreneurship class, for which she had to create a comprehensive business plan. The hypothetical business at the center of her plan was Smallcakes, where she was working.

Last year the owner decided to sell. Stone pulled out that tailor-made business plan from graduate school, contacted her former professor, and got some advice from staff at the university’s Small Business Development Center. She secured a loan from the bank—and the rest is history.

Classnotes

1995
Amy Turner Mims (early childhood education) tells us that her daughter attended an open house for prospective students at USC Aiken. “She plans on attending fall 2019. She loved the campus.”

2000
Bettie Anne Williams (communication and English) graduated with a master’s degree in public administration in December 2018.

2005
Karen Klock Herbold (communication) said, “In July 2017, I was asked to lead the Aiken Standard’s pagination team as we brought page design back to our newsroom here in Aiken. March 2019 will mark 14 years that I’ve been with the newspaper; I started shortly before graduation.”

2009
Mary Sharpe, née Kelley, (communication) is living in Nashville, Tennessee. She married fellow USC Aiken alum Logan Sharpe. She is the membership and volunteer coordinator for the Adult Congenital Heart Association, a national nonprofit that provides resources, education and advocacy for adults living with congenital heart defects and disease, as she does.

2011
Stephanie Kay Burket, née Boatwright, (communication) is now the supervisor of administration at the Cason Group.

2013
Joshua Levert Campos has become a realtor.

2014
Ellie Taylor Dreese, née Bowers, (communication) said, “In the past few months, I have moved back to Aiken, gotten married, purchased a home in New Ellenton, and taken the job as director of sales and marketing for Holiday Inn Express and Suites in Aiken. I am very excited to be back in a town that I love, and I hope to see some of my USC Aiken friends soon!”

James Lester Cornelius (math/computer science) married Taylor Hall (public health, USC Columbia) on October 27, 2018. The couple met while working at the South Carolina Department of Mental Health in Columbia. What truly makes their love story unique is that they met in the same manner as Taylor’s parents.
Pacer Sports

A TRIUMPHANT SEASON FOR VOLLEYBALL

The volleyball team reached the Sweet 16 for the second time in school history not just for the program, but for any of the women's sports. The squad also celebrated another first: the Coach, Libero and Player of the Year in the Peach Belt Conference (PBC). In addition, the Volleyball team had two All-Americans, both juniors. The NCAA statistical leader in digs/set, Rebecca Martinez and Christine Carroll, a nursing major, earned the Player of the Year and All-America honors.

Carroll and Martinez: Volleyball Standouts

Juniors Christine Carroll and Rebecca Martinez received honorable mention All-Americans by the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA).

Carroll and Martinez won the accolade, previously in 2015 and 2016.

Carroll, in his 11th year at USC Aiken, has guided the Pacers to unprecedented success in the PBC, in his 11th year at USC Aiken, has won the accolade, previously in 2015 and 2016.

While his team was pegged to finish fourth in the PBC, Carroll lead them to a 21-3 overall record, the second time in school history not just for any of the women's sports.

Carroll, the PBC Libero of the Year. The two-time first-team all-conference honoree led the nation in digs per set (7.86). Her 739 digs on the season marked a career high.

Martinez shatteret several school marks in 2018 also topping the PBC’s single-season record with 22 matches of 20-plus digs. Her 8.62 per set in league play also shatteret the previous single-set average high. Martinez entered the school record book 12 times in 2018 for digs in a single match, with seven of the top-10 marks in a three-set match, four of the top-10 matches in a four-set contest and the second-best effort in a five-set match.

She posted a career-high 43 digs in the four-set win against NCAA-Tournament participant Spring Hill at the Valdosta State Tournament. Martinez set the school record for digs in a three-set match (39) and four-set match (43) in 2018.

She is second on USC Aiken’s career digs chart (1,875), seventh on the PBC career overall chart and fifth on the PBC career list in the 25-point rally scoring era.

Martinez also picked up D2CCA all-region honors (2017, 2018) and was a D2CCA second-team All-American last year.

Prior to this season, the last USC Aiken student-athlete to pick up honors from the AVCA was Ashley Diedrich in 2015; she was named an honorable mention All-American.

NEW FOR 2019: MEN’S CROSS-COUNTRY

With the return of men’s cross-country next fall, USC Aiken will now have 12 NCAA sports that will compete in the Peach Belt Conference. With the addition of men’s cross-country for USC Aiken, the PBC will have nine teams competing for a conference championship in the sport.

To lead both the men’s and women’s teams, the university appointed Lauren Etheridge as the first full time cross-country head coach.

In addition to her duties at the helm of the USC Aiken cross country programs, Etheridge will also handle the strength and conditioning programs for each of the 12 teams. Etheridge is a certified strength and conditioning specialist through the National Strength and Conditioning Association. She is a certified personal trainer through the American Council on Exercise.

Etheridge has a degree in health and wellness from UNC Asheville and is completing her master’s in exercise science at Auburn Montgomery.

THREE EARN PBC ALL-ACADEMIC

Three university men’s soccer standouts—Giuseppe Cimino, Oliver Macallan, and Daniel Orillac—were named to the Peach Belt Conference All-Academic Team in November.

Cimino is a sophomore from Soverato, Italy, who is majoring in business administration. Macallan is a junior from Fairham, England, who is majoring in business administration. Orillac is a senior from Panama City, Panama, majoring in industrial mathematics.

The team is part of a season-long program that recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of PBC student-athletes in the classroom and on the field. To be eligible for the all-academic team, a student-athlete must participate in at least half of his or her team’s events and be a starter or significant contributor; achieve a 3.5 cumulative grade point average (on a 4.0 scale), and complete at least one full academic year at his or her current institution and have reached sophomore athletic eligibility. The Peach Belt Conference sports information directors oversee the program.
Students donned their Pacer red and blue to celebrate National College Colors Day, established in 2004 by the College Licensing Company to promote school spirit and pride. The observance occurs annually on the Friday before Labor Day.

Alumni, family, friends and fans are encouraged to express their school spirit by wearing colors or apparel associated with their college of choice.

The Student Government Association designated the first day of every week as USCA Monday, when students—and anyone else—are encouraged to get in the spirit and sport their Pacer colors.
Pacers ranked No. 4 in National Association of Basketball Coaches National Poll on February 5.

Way to go, Pacers!