

USCB SHARK TALES

Vol. 5 • No.2

Celebrating Stories of USCB Student and Alumni Success

SPRING 2024

Celebrating Stories of USCB Student Success

Each year, the University of South Carolina Beaufort community grows more robust. Our students are propelled by their dedication to learning and excellence. Our Sand Sharks' academic efforts transcend classrooms and homework, reaching into real-world issues and seeking impactful solutions. Through experimental learning, our students and faculty harness the power and responsibility to bring about positive change in our communities. Even with hurdles, our students persist. Let us celebrate the spirit of the first half of 2024 and the exceptional Sand Sharks who exemplify it. We honor the excellence and resilience of our USCB family.

Angela Simmons
Vice Chancellor for
Student Development

Eric Skipper
Provost & EVCAA



STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS:

Sand Sharks at The Heritage



Hilton Head Island hosts one of the largest PGA Tour events, the RBC Heritage Tournament, each year at Harbour Town Golf Links. USCB is proud to bring students to volunteer at the event to get first-hand experience with communications and hospitality opportunities at the event! [Link](#)

Scholarship Celebration

In April, students receiving donor scholarships got to meet the donors supporting their education at the 2024



Scholarship Donors Celebration. Donor Scholarships are an opportunity for selected students to receive financial assistance for their education. You can learn more about donor scholarships at this [Link](#).

Congratulations Nursing Students

Congratulations to several of our nursing students for completing the *Strengthening Achievement and Nursing Diversity with URM/DB Program for South Carolina (StAND-UP: SC)* through the University of South Carolina. This program is a federally funded project that prepares diverse and underrepresented nursing students to be successful social justice advocates to address social determinants of health. Congratulations to **Debbie Cooper, Sierra Crawford, Ta'nyah Felder, Elizabeth Jacobs, Iyinda Kirkland, Emoni Mack, Tania Ramirez, and Emely Shreve**. [Link](#)

Honors Students visit OLLI



On February 21st, 3 honors students, **Andrea Santibanez, Piper Davis, and Lindsey Baker** assisted Provost Dr. Skipper in discussing the benefits of a USCB education to a group of OLLI members. The 3 students discussed the endless opportunities that they have been given by attending USCB. [Link](#)

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STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS:

(Continued from front page)

Beaufort Lifestyle Magazine

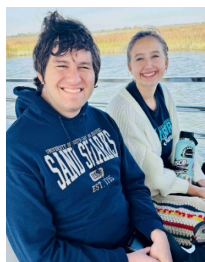


Quintilian Fields Jr. (Biology) was featured in the January issue of Beaufort Lifestyle Magazine, where he discussed his ambition to become a doctor as well as his experience at a Summer Research Program at Rutgers University in New Jersey. [Link](#)

Pritchards Island



USCB Honors Students took a field trip to Pritchard's Island, a pristine barrier island owned by the University, to explore the beauty of the island as well as learn about research opportunities that the university offers. The students took a boat from Fripp Island to Pritchard's Island and marveled at the beauty of the island. [Link](#)



Sand Shark Adventures



Sand Shark Adventures! USCB students took a kayak nature tour thanks to Palmetto Bluff! The students explored the beautiful waterways of the Lowcountry. [Link](#)

Earth Day

USCB's Environmental Sustainability and Conservation Club celebrated Earth Day this April by cleaning up the New River boat ramp. Thank you to these students for keeping our beautiful earth clean! [Link](#)

STUDENT EMPLOYEES

Outstanding Student Employees! USCB Library wants to recognize our Outstanding Student Employees: **McKenna Perito** and **Megan Webb**. Thank you for all your hard work and commitment to USCB Library. We hope our Sand Sharks have a great summer...Fins Up! [Link](#)

The University of South Carolina Beaufort Facilities Management Department is very lucky to have such outstanding student workers. Day in and day out they strive to make USCB a better place for students, faculty and staff. These kids are highly motivated, truly dedicated, romping stomping, ass kicking name taking and very intelligent. They work well as a team or on their own. With or without supervision. It is more than an honor to run a crew like this. Fins Up! To the Facilities Management student workers. **Anna Crider, Caleb Freeman, Aiden Driscoll-Sadusky, Shishir Nath, John Leland** and **Michael Corrales**.



STUDENT RESEARCH

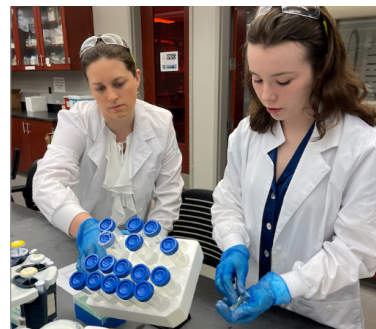
Andrea Santibanez (Psychology; faculty mentor Dr. Carmen Farrell) Awarded \$2000 Magellan Guarantee grant. Presented her project Ethnic Differences in Seeking Help after Exposure to Domestic Violence at the SouthEastern Psychological Association Annual Meeting, USCB Student Research and Scholarship Day, and Discover USC in the Spring Semester. Program [Link](#)



Biology Major Graduates **Shane M. Carey, Destiny M. O'Neill,** and **Garrett B. Conner** assisted in developing a manuscript with Dr. Ed D'Antonio, "Discovery of Strong 3-Nitro-2-Phenyl-2H-Chromene Analogues as Antitrypanosomal Agents and Inhibitors of *Trypanosoma cruzi* Glucokinase, which was published in *IJMS* as part of the Special Issue: *Advances in Therapeutics against Eukaryotic Pathogens*. [Link](#)



Matthew Holt published his second study, titled "Do we really apply evidence-based recommendations to spine surgery?" *Results of an international survey*. Congratulations to Matthew for his publication in *Neurosurgical Review* [Link](#)



Biology Students **Lindsey Baker, Carson Frey, Anna Husted,** and **Destiny O'Neill** are assisting Dr. Ed D'Antonio to seek a unique form of therapeutic advancement towards Chaga's disease, a neglected tropical disease that affects about seven million people, but is rarely addressed by global health programs and funding agencies.

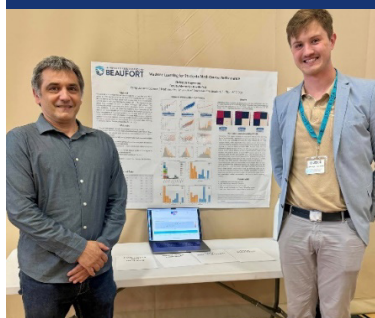


Dr. Eric Montie and his research team consisting of USCB Students presented at the annual Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA) meeting in Charleston. The team presented their annual report on the Estuarine Soundscape Observatory Network in the Southeast (ESONS). [Link](#)

Brendan Cruz (Biology) received a Magellan Scholar grant of \$2,500 through the USC Office of Undergraduate Research for his research titled "Leveraging eDNA to Determine if Lionfish are Present in the Port Royal Sound." With Mercer Brugler as his mentor.



USCB STUDENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP DAY 2024 WINNERS



Place, Category	Title	Winner(s)
Oral Presentations: First place	From Now Until Tomorrow: Poems	Chad (Charles) Merritt
Oral Presentations: Second place	Safe Spaces: Nature and Identity	Sophia McKeegan
Oral Presentations: Third place	Everyday Thoughts, Dreams, and Some Other Things	Jackson Cox
Innovation Application: First Place	Machine Learning for Students' Math Course Performance	Christoph Hagenauer
Innovation Application: Second Place	What Is Wrong with My Professor?: An Exploration of Agile Practices in Video Game Production	Rachel Valvo, Mason Martin
Innovation Application: Third Place	A Java Video Game with a 3D-Printed Interactive Accessory Inspired by the Dadaist Art Movement	Keaton LaBorde
Inquiry-based: First place	The Psychological Correlates of Using Artificial Intelligence Across Two Domains: Academics and Social Media	KJ. Williams, M. Fulmer, H. Taylor, Jade Anderson, S. Bass, M. Wolff, Traliya Mitchell, G. Yonce, G. Aranda
Inquiry-based: Second place	(Non)Religious Proselytizing: Explaining the Desire to (de)convert Others	S. Bass, H. Taylor, Mattie Wolff, Matthew Fulmer, Graceyn Yonce, Francesca Piccolo-Youngblood
Inquiry-based: Third place	Analyzing User Behavior and Speech Patterns: A Comparative Study of YouTube Communities through Community and Sentiment Analysis	Sierra Barbee
Issue-based: First place	Listening to Vessel Noise – Have Recreational Boats Increased in the May River Estuary Over the Last 10 Years?	Warren McClellan, Michael Martello, Alyssa Marian, Katherine Doyle, Lily Blake, Garrett Willford, Jessica Miller, Hayden Greenwalt, Joseph Ballenger, Brock Renkas
Issue-based: Second place	Assessing Dollar Store Food Environments in Alignment to Nutrition Support Programs in the Lowcountry	Kari Hill
Issue-based: Third place	Social Media and the Mental Health Among Enrolled Women at the University of South Carolina Beaufort	Elizabeth Ramsey
Visual Arts: First place	Art for Aging Children	Tatiana Zalapskaia
Visual Arts: Second place	The Human Experience	Logan Gaymon
Visual Arts: Third place	The conceptualization and execution of an illustration	Anna Szalc
Descriptive: First place	Watch Out for the Big Girls: The Emancipation of the Fat Black Woman	Thillah Maybin
Descriptive: Second place	Characterization of the Phytoplankton Community in The Port Royal Sound Estuary	Lauren Kippes, Zinia Hambleton, Lauryn Carrington
Descriptive: Third place	Game-Winning Conversations	Mason Williams
Hypothesis-driven: First place	Investigating the Potential Factors of Identifying Novel Sources of Antibiotics from White Sharks	Matthew Holt, Elizabeth Jones, Danielle Freedman, Anabella Platt, Diego Gil, Daniel Conrad (alum), Emily Chamblee, Rohan Preis, Suchir Shetty, Jenna McCarty, Lauryn Carrington
Hypothesis-driven: Second place	Understanding the Multifaceted Threats to Opuntia spp. Survival in Dune Ecosystems	Jenna McCarty
Hypothesis-driven: Third place	Identifying Pseudo Random Number Generators From Statistical Test Output	Jarrett Kizer, Christoph Hagenauer,
Social Justice: First place	Assessing Dollar Store Food Environments in Alignment to Nutrition Support Programs in the Lowcountry	Kari Hill
Social Justice: Honorable Mention	Ethnic differences in seeking help after exposure to domestic violence	Andrea Santibanez
Social Justice: Honorable Mention	How Strongly is Sexual Trauma Related to Mental Health Disorders?	Tresharna Bitler-Gray

STUDY ABROAD



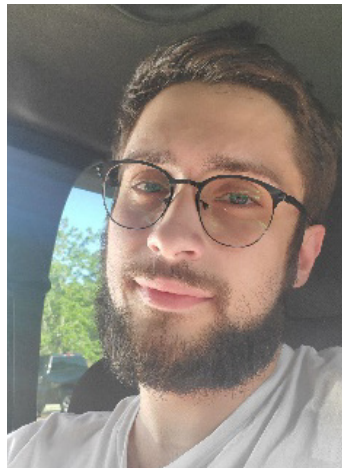
This Spring, 3 USCB students attended a study abroad program at HZ University in the Netherlands. This partnership between the two universities have allowed many USCB students to experience study abroad in the Netherlands, as well students from HZ experience life at USCB! This past semester, students **Andrea Boyd, Katrina O’Grady,** and **Will Findley** went overseas to HZ, and explored many other places, including Germany and Ireland, while attending the university!



in the culture. The two selected education students who are a part of this program are **Celeste Cruz-Reyes** and **Evan Calabrese**, who will use the information they gain over this program to educate their future students on Korean and Asian culture as well as present at the Korean Cultural Studies Conference at the USCB Hilton Head Island Campus on October 25, 2024. [Link](#)



USCB’s South Korean and Asian Literacy Education (SKALE) program is an initiative that the university is taking to prepare the local area for the influx of Korean and Asian culture and businesses impacting the Lowcountry and Coastal Empire. Funded by the U.S Department of Education and Fulbright-Hays, 12 individuals consisting of USCB Faculty, local K-12 educators, and 2 USCB students will be vigorously engaging with Korean and Asian culture for 18 months, including spending 4 weeks in South Korea to fully immerse themselves



To kick-off the many summer study abroad programs that USCB is offering for Summer 2024, 6 USCB Biology program students enrolled in the course “The Natural History of the Bahamas”, led by Dr. Kim Ritchie and Dr. Joe Staton. The students spent the Maymester at Gerace Research Center on San Salvador Island in the Bahamas. The students who studied abroad in the Bahamas were **Campbell Crum, Taylor DeSilva, Piper Davis, Loren Quintana, Liza Jones,** and **Rohan Preis.** [Link](#)

AWARDS

Ronald E. McNair Scholar



Savanna Fumbi (Psychology) was selected as a Ronald E. McNair Scholar this Spring, a program which aims to increase the number of Ph.D. students who are first-generation, Pell-eligible, or from underrepresented groups in graduate education. During this summer, Fumbi's research topic for this program will be "High Maternal Mortality Rates of African American Women". [Link](#)

Honor Society in Psychology



15 USCB students were inducted into the International Honor Society in Psychology (Psi Chi), a society that provides additional opportunities for Psychology students to find internships, scholarships, and graduate school opportunities. [Link](#)

Nurse Pinning Ceremony



Congratulations to the 43 graduating students from the USCB nursing program who were recognized for their achievements of becoming new nurses at the Nurse Pinning Ceremony on April 25th. We thank you all for the wonderful work that you are going to do for our community and beyond. [Link](#)

AWARDS

STUDENT LIFE AWARD RECIPIENTS



Outstanding Residential First-Year Student of the Year Award (Bluffton Campus) - **ERIC NORD**



Outstanding Residential First-Year Student of the Year Award (Beaufort Campus) - **LAYLA BOWMAN**



Outstanding Commuter First-Year Student of the Year Award - **AUBREY BOSWELL**



Outstanding New Transfer Student of the Year Award - **BRENDAN CRUZ**



Outstanding First-Year Student of the Year Award - **IRELAND MACK**



Orientation Leader of the Year Award - **ABIGAIL VINING**



HALL OF LEADERS - **IRELAND MACK,**



HALL OF LEADERS - **ANDREA SANTIBANEZ,**



HALL OF LEADERS - **PIPER DAVIS**



HALL OF LEADERS - **ADAM BESSEGER**



Emerging Organization - **SHARK SOUND WAVES**



Outstanding Organization of the Year - **BEST BUDDIES**



Toy Drive Winner - **SAND SHARK AMBASSADORS**



Norman Varnes Service to USCB - **EMMA OSMENT**

AWARDS

2024

ACADEMIC AWARDS



Outstanding Biology
Student of the Year –
CAELAN JAMES SAMMY



Outstanding Business
Student of the Year –
JONAS DEMANT



Pamela J. Cooper Communication
Studies Student of the Year –
Haley Massenburg



Outstanding Computational
Science Student of the Year –
Cassy Cooper



Information Science and
Technology Student of the Year –
Tgaja Johnson



Outstanding Early Childhood
Education Student of the Year –
Devon Weller



Outstanding Elementary
Childhood Education Student of
the Year – **Eugene McLaurin**



Tombe/Eby Outstanding English
Student of the Year – **Alex Clark**



Madison Riley Adkins Award for
Outstanding Secondary English
Education – **Kayt Pierce**



Governor Paul Hamilton Sons
of the American Revolution
Outstanding Student in History –
Sierra Watkins

AWARDS



Outstanding Hospitality Management Student of the Year – Maya Stovcsik



Outstanding Online Hospitality Management Student of the Year – Sandra Park Welch



Outstanding Public Health Student of the Year – Allison McElveen



Lynn M. Mulkey Human Services Program Outstanding Student of the Year – Natajisia Smith



Palmetto College Human Services Outstanding Student of the Year – Jasmine White



Sadusky-Gordon Haist Interdisciplinary Studies Outstanding Student of the Year – Anthony Aiden Driscoll



Outstanding Nursing Student of the Year – Iyinda Kirkland



Outstanding Sociology Student of the Year – Mckayla Malaythong



Charles L. Spirrison Psychology Outstanding Student of the Year – Brianna Wells



Outstanding Studio Arts Student of the Year – Anna Szalc



Newman Civic Fellowship Award – Mattie Wolff



Darwin B Bashaw Student of the Year – Sierra Watkins

AWARDS

— SPRING 2024 —

BEAUFORT COLLEGE HONORS GRADUATES



Hannah Clowers



Brianna A. Wells



Kali Washick



Jenna McCarty



Emma Carrington



Sierra Watkins



Shannon Richardson



Jonas Demant



Jacob Hewitt



Christoph Hagenauer



Adam W. Bessenger



Elizabeth "Lainey" Herbert



Leah Stegall



Aydanni Gonzalez



Marina Rose Cearley



Iyinda Kirkland



Lily Clough



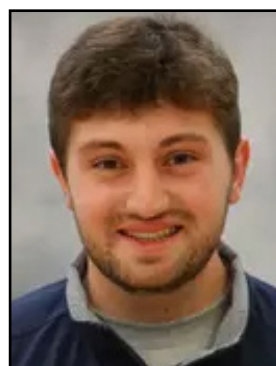
BriAnna Holley

Athletics

Janiyah Heyward and **Marcus Overstreet** both won the "Peach Belt Conference Freshman of the Year" due to their incredible performances on USCB's Women's and Men's Basketball Teams during the inaugural season.



Ellis Bright (Business Administration) tied for third at the Peach Belt Conference Championship at the Forest Hills Golf Club in Augusta. He finished with a 4-under 68 in the final round and finished 5-under for the championship.



Michael Martello (Biology) took home the gold for the USCB's Men's track and field team at the Peach Belt Conference Championships in Daytona beach in April. He made a mark of 49.51m in the hammer throw, breaking both his own school and personal record.



Cameron Edwards (Education) broke the school records for both the long and triple jump at the Peach Belt Conference in Daytona Beach in April. He also set a personal record with a 14.41m and 7.01m jumps.



McLain Neal (Business Administration) tied for third place at the Lady Bearcat Invitational in Greenwood in March. She carded an even par 72 final around.