

USCB SHARK TALES

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Celebrating Stories of USCB Student Success

SPRING 2020

Celebrating Stories of USCB Student Success

Student success is an attitude and a culture, carried out by every unit on campus. The result? An inquisitive, engaged learner—at USCB and in life.

We hope you enjoy this inaugural issue of Shark Tales: The Student Success Newsletter. As you can see, our students are doing a lot. They are engaged in activities that enhance the quality of life in our community. They are solving problems, performing research, serving others during the COVID pandemic, and winning state and national awards. The diverse community of scholars featured herein embody the USCB Strategic Plan 2023 student success goal to “Equip students for success within the university and beyond graduation.” Their achievements are the fruits of faculty and staff guidance and high expectations; their efforts are undergirded by a strong network of student support. Enjoy!

Eric Skipper
Provost & EVCAA

Angela Simmons
Vice Chancellor for Student Development

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS:



Alex Jonguitud Works to Discover Novel Antibiotics and Volunteers Amidst COVID-19

Alex Jonguitud, a recent USCB Biology major graduate who completed an REU at the University of Iowa Forbes Lab last year, has just been offered two highly promising opportunities for his future: a Post-baccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP) at the NIH’s National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease or NIAID, made famous by its director Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, in Montana and a two-year PREP at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Amidst the outbreak of COVID-19, Alex has been volunteering in his community. Elderly neighbors asking for assistance via Facebook and Nextdoor have a selfless friend in Alex, who runs errands, picks up groceries, and delivers necessities to some of the most vulnerable during this time.



Imani Sherrills named Campus Compact Newman Title Fellow

Imani, a Human Services major at USCB, works towards a better community and social justice in Bluffton, Beaufort, and beyond. The Newman Civic Fellowship recognizes and

supports community-committed students who are changemakers and public problem-solvers at Campus Compact member institutions. Imani was nominated by our Chancellor on the basis of her strong potential for public leadership.



Shae Gantt Empowers Women in STEM Through Harvard Undergrad Research in Epidemiology

Shae Gantt, a senior USCB Mathematics major, was invited to apply, and has since been accepted, to Harvard’s Graduate Epidemiology program after a successful undergrad summer REU there in 2019. Shae’s research mentor and professor at USCB, Dr. Swati Debroy, has been instrumental in her academic career, teaching her that not only do women belong in STEM environments, they thrive.



Natalie Perilstein accepted into Disney College Program

Natalie Perilstein, junior English major, proves USCB magical as ever as she is accepted into the Disney College Program. (Continued on page 2)

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS:

(Continued from front page)

cepted into the Disney College Program. This program allows her the unique experience to spend five to seven months networking with Disney leaders, taking part in career development classes, and building transferable professional skills. In order to prepare, her professors, Dr. Robert Kilgore and Dr. Lauren Hoffer, assisted with mock interviews. Natalie intends to apply for Disney Professional Internships and start a lifelong career with Disney upon graduation in Spring 2021.

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Antonia Quintero selected for South Carolina Washington Semester Internship Program



Antonia Quintero, senior USCB Communication Studies major, is one of 17 students in the state of South Carolina to be invited to participate in the South Carolina Washington Semester Internship Program (WSP), allowing her to gain firsthand experience with the political process while earning academic credit and obtaining skills that will help prepare her for a career in virtually any sphere. Dr. Jayne L. Violette states that she “distinguished herself among her classmates, embodying grit and determination in all aspects of her life.”

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For more USCB student merit information go to <https://uscb.meritpages.com>

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USCB Alumni & COVID-19



USCB Nursing Alumna On COVID-19 Frontlines

USCB alumna and COVID-19 crisis frontliner - Kristen McDonald, nursing class of 2019, is working overtime as a Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit (NSICU) nurse at Virginia Commonwealth University’s medical center. Kristen has been on call 24/7, providing the utmost care and support to the most critical COVID-19 patients and others in need of life-sustaining measures. She credits USCB’s BSN Program in preparing her to persevere during these unprecedented times. “My professors didn’t sugarcoat how nursing would be. It’s raw, it’s emotional, but you know you have to stay strong for the patient and their family.” She believes her clinical professors equipped her to handle tough situations right off the bat. “I definitely didn’t know my first year as a nurse would be baptism by fire during a pandemic, but the resiliency and hard work that I developed in USCB’s BSN Program is what’s keeping me afloat.”

USCB Alumna Danyelle Bozeman Wilson Inspires a Love of Learning During COVID-19

USCB Early Childhood Education alumna, Danyelle Bozeman Wilson, is teaching her Oakridge Elementary (Clover, SC) kindergartners in her at-home virtual classroom. Her 23 students participate in an on-line class that includes math concepts, arts and crafts, games, and fun reading assignments -if you haven’t read *Creepy Pair of Underwear*, it comes highly recommended from Danyelle’s class. Danyelle makes sure to do a daily read-aloud session, followed by the students’ own time to create art inspired by the story, or read independently, “just so they can continue to love reading.”



USCB's Fulbright Story:

First student semi-finalist - Tedi Light and USCB as Fulbright Top Producing Institution, 2019-2020



Theodora Light

Theodora Light is a double major on track to graduate in May 2019 with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Spanish. This spring she achieved [a singular honor](#) when she was notified that she is the first USCB student to be [named a semi-final candidate](#) for

[a Fulbright Scholarship](#) to conduct research in Spain. Spain is considered one of the most difficult locations for success in Fulbright awards. At roughly the same time, she applied to graduate school programs at Harvard, Vanderbilt, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Michigan, the University of Georgia and Emory University.

USCB was named a [top producer of Fulbright U.S. Scholars](#) for the 2019-2020 academic year by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.



- **Kimberly Cavanagh, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Anthropology, [was selected for the 2019-2020 Fulbright U.S. Scholar](#) in Jordan. She was also a Fulbright Student Scholar there in 2008.
- **USCB Chancellor Al M. Panu, Ph.D.**, was a 2019 [Fulbright U.S. International Education Administrators Seminar in France](#) scholar chosen to familiarize select American university administrators with the higher education and research system of France.
- **Juanita (Babet) Villena-Alvarez, Ph.D.**, interim AVCAA, was awarded the 2018 Fulbright Hays seminar in Poland. She was invited back in 2019 to [deliver the keynote address at the 60th Fulbright Poland](#) celebration and was named as a U.S. Fulbright Specialist in April 2020.
- **Manuel (Bud) Sanders, Ph.D.**, Chair of the Mathematics Department, was selected as a Fulbright U.S. Scholar in [2017-2018 academic year in Finland](#).
- **Cindy J. Lahar, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Psychology, is currently a [Fulbright Specialist and past Fulbright U.S. Scholar](#) in Cambodia.
- **Lynn W. McGee, Ph.D.**, former vice chancellor for advancement and external relations, was the [first Fulbright recipient at USCB](#) with the 2016 Fulbright U.S. International Education Administrators Seminar in Germany.

USCB Study Abroad

Global Learning is considered a [High Impact Practice](#) by the Association of American Colleges and Universities. In the past 6 years, USCB has exponentially increased the Global Learning education. For 2019-2020, some 25 students from the Departments of Education and Public Health traveled to Finland, as well as two students to Netherlands for USCB's exchange program with HZ University of Applied Sciences in Vlissingen. These two students majored in Communications and Hospitality Management.

In addition, USCB students also traveled to other destinations for their global education in previous academic years: Nepal, France, United Kingdom, Ghana, Italy, Spain, Australia, Germany, Costa Rica, and Portugal.



USCB Student Organizations and Majors Shine



Gamma Beta Phi – USCB GBP Chapter is one of six chapters nation-wide to win the GBP Exemplary Award this academic year. USCB GBP students also hosted the national Gamma Beta Phi Convention at USCB-Hilton Head Campus on February 21-22, 2020. National chapters from as far away as New Mexico, Colorado and Oklahoma attended the convention. USCB GBP officers are Haylie Garber - President and Historian, Leia Aldrich - Vice-President, Manning Wright - Community Service Points Keeper, Katie Binkowski - Secretary, Alexis Miller - Treasurer, and Joe Lankowski - Communications. Chapter advisor is Prof. Rena Kratky.



USCB Student Nurses Association

Outstanding Community Health Award accepted by USCB chapter president Samara King (2nd from right) and held by vice president Courtney Brockbrader (3rd from right) at the 68th Annual SNA-SC State Convention. Other awards include Megan Klinger (2nd from left) - Leadership Award, Karyn Nicole Wallach (5th from left) - Treasurer Award and USCB Assistant Professor of Nursing Dr. Lee-Ann Halbert (4th from Left) - Muriel Horton Dean Award for the South Carolina chapter advisor of the year.

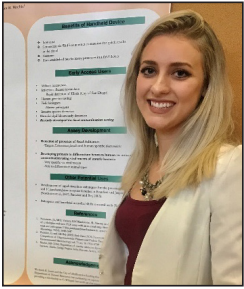
Computational Science Students take 3rd place at ACM Southeast regional programming competition



(Left to right) Veronica McLeod, Frank Cazales, Lingtao Chen, and their coach, Dr. Kishwar Ahmed, Assistant Professor of Computational Science

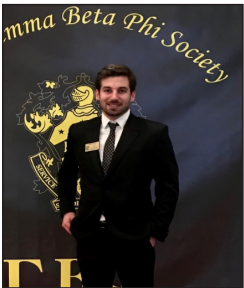
USCB ACADEMIC AWARDS 2020

Outstanding Biology Student of the Year Award Olivia Whipple



Olivia has proven to be one of the most motivated, goal-oriented, self-disciplined, teachable, organized, initiative-taking, driven student. She is president of the Pre-Professional Association at USCB and has organized hospital volunteer work, board meetings, and helped connect the current nursing study abroad program with students interested in other post graduate medical studies. She is currently volunteering on the front lines during this global pandemic

Outstanding Business Student of the Year Award Carson Reed



Carson has been active in the Gamma Beta Phi National Honor Society serving as vice present of the USCB Chapter and becoming the first USCB student to be elected to serve on the National Executive Committee. He accepted a financial analyst position with Amazon at its corporate Headquarters in Seattle, Washington in the company's highly competitive Accounting/Finance Rotational Program (AFRP).

Pamela J. Cooper Outstanding Communication Studies Student of the Year Award Cassandra Headen



Cassandra was involved in the COMM Club, three honors societies, and community service. She was recognized in the President's and Chancellor's Honors List and she has participated in over 15 productions. SCETV awarded Cassie with one of the first SCETV Student Media Program Internships at USCB. She

was hired by OrcaTV to be USCBtv's Student Ambassador. Broadcast Education Association nationally honored her with the Peter B. Orlik Scholarship. She will attend the Master's in Media Arts Program at the University of South Carolina, Columbia.

Outstanding Computational Science Student of the Year Award Alexis Miller



Alexis Miller was a recipient of the National Science Foundation S-STEM scholarship as well as the UofSC Magellan Scholar Award. She was selected as the 2019 Club Student of the Year for the USCB ACM chapter. Last summer, she worked as an application development intern with the Vanguard Group and following her graduation from USCB, Alexis will be returning to Vanguard in August 2020 to work full-time in their Technology Leadership Program.

Outstanding Education Student of the Year Award Logan Smith



Logan will graduate with honors with a B.A. in Early Childhood Education. She served as the president of the Student Ambassadors, and was extremely active in the Education Club. She served as the Zeta-Phi Beta Sorority secretary and did an international education travel experience her senior year. Logan has been offered a third-grade teaching position next year at Red Cedar Elementary in Bluffton.

Tombe/Eby Outstanding English Student of the Year Award Amanda Mazeika



Amanda's work has been stellar. She was awarded the department's Best Essay Prize in 2018 with an honorable mention in 2017 and is the most nominated student in the award's history. In addition to her membership in the English Honor Society and the editorial staff for The Pen, she has served USCB as an Orientation Leader, as an officer for Sand Shark Activities Board and as a Writing Center Tutor. Amanda will graduate summa cum laude this spring 2020.

**Governor Paul Hamilton Sons of the American Revolution Outstanding Student in History Award
And
Outstanding Spanish Student of the Year Award
Theodora Light**



A dual History and Spanish major Tedi will graduate with honors May 2020. She received a Magellan scholarship in 2019 and became an alternate for a Fulbright open-research award to study the region's earliest European records in Spain. Outside of school, Tedi works for the Santa Elena History Center, She

has also been an active volunteer and serves as the Chair of Voter Services. Following graduation, Tedi and her husband Carl will return to her hometown of Athens, Georgia where she will be continuing her education in Early American History at the University of Georgia.

**Outstanding Hospitality Management Student of the Year Award
Shane Suda**



Shane is an excellent student - he is always prepared, participates in class and is an academic leader among his peers. He works hard, asks questions when necessary, is super punctual and reliable, and a generally easy person to be around. Shane is a role model for students in the Hospitality Management program. He al-

ways has a positive attitude and can be found studying with his peers in the Hilton Head Island Campus learning resources room.

**Outstanding Public Health Student of the Year Award
Nyasia Jamison**



Nyasia has been described as outstanding by professors, peers and community members. She has great ability, aptitude and aspirations that serve the field of Public Health, USCB and the world well. Her dedication and willingness to listen to different ideas as well as pursue new experiences, like she did in her Study

Abroad trip to Finland, will ensure that she grows, adapts and will surmount whatever challenges she faces in the future!

**Lynn M. Mulkey Human Services Program Outstanding Student of the Year Award
Khadashia McMillian**



Khadashia has served as president of USCB's Human Services Student Organization (HSSO) for two years. She successfully completed over 400 internship hours in the Human Services field Khadashia has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement throughout her time at USCB, evidenced by the fact that she is a member of the USCB Chi Nu Chapter of the Tau Upsilon Alpha National Human Services Honor Society.

**Palmetto College On-Line Human Services Degree Completion Student of the Year Award
Elijah-Kinde Rigby**



Elijah-Kinde has truly maximized the online learning environment during her years at USCB. She was identified by her professors as an outstanding contributor in each of her Human Services courses. In addition to maintaining a GPA in the top 25% of the class, Elijah-Kinde also successfully completed 360 field hours across three separate internships in and around the Rock Hill, SC community.

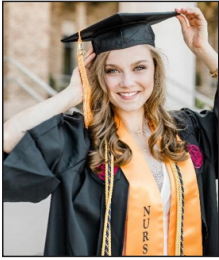
**Gordon Haist Interdisciplinary Studies Outstanding Student of the Year Award
Henry Joshua "Josh" Bing**



Josh pursued a course of study that emphasized film production, writing, and acting in his IDST degree program. Josh has worked on production with the SCETV & USCB collaborative program By the River as part of his Communications minor. He applied his multi-disciplinary skills toward for

his senior project, and also maintained a series of jobs – at law offices and produce supply companies – throughout his collegiate career.

**Outstanding Nursing Student of the Year Award
Erin Riddle**



The Outstanding Student in Nursing Award is given to the student who is well-rounded and exemplifies a high level of academic achievement and leadership. During her time at USCB, Erin has maintained high academic standards, displayed leadership capabilities, and excellent clinical skills. She has a work ethic that is unmatched and is respected by both her peers and faculty.

Erin plans to take a position as an ICU nurse upon graduation.

**Outstanding Sociology Student of the Year Award
Kristy Campos**



Kristy Campos is graduating with her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. After USCB, Kristy would love to work with South Carolina's Department of Social Services, specifically in the Family Preservation Division. She has always loved the idea of tutoring and mentoring younger children who needed assistance, as a volunteer to tutor afterschool or joining a neighborhood outreach program to help children. Kristy hopes to continue to serve and help families in need.

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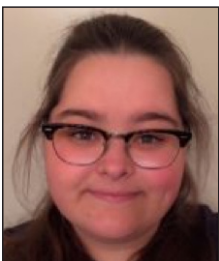
**Charles L. Spirrison Psychology Student of the Year Award
Kaitlyn O'Hearn**



Kaitlyn is a graduating psychology senior from Las Vegas, Nevada. Kaitlyn was a member of the Dean's Student Advisory Council and International Honor Society for Psychology (Psi Chi). She was on the President's List for all semesters (17';18';19';20') while also being a starting player all four years for USCB Softball. Kaitlyn is continuing her education for

her Master's Degree in Forensic and Legal Psychology at Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia.

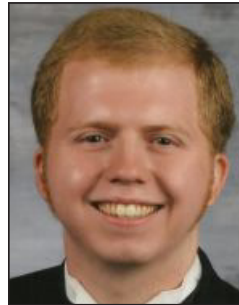
**Founding Chancellor Jane T. Upshaw Outstanding Student in Mathematics Award
Shae Gantt**



Shae is an exceptional student of mathematics with keen interests in applied mathematics and infectious disease research. In summer 2019, Shae was selected to participate in a prestigious Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) at Harvard University. Shae has been accepted to the T.H. Chan School of Public Health

within the Epidemiology Master's program at Harvard to continue her education.

**Outstanding Studio Arts Student of the Year Award
Williams (Matt) Bryan**



Williams (Matt) Bryan is a Junior Art major with a concentration in Media Arts in USCB's Department of Visual Art & Design. He has consistently demonstrated skill and talent in drawing, painting, and digital media. As president of the Art Club, Matt has worked hard to plan multiple events and outings, including an upcoming museum

trip to Washington, D.C.

**Newman Civic Fellow
Imani Agyha Sherrills**



A junior in the Human Services program at the University of South Carolina Beaufort (USCB), Imani has been an active member of the Human Services Student Organization (HSSO) at USCB for two years; she is currently serving as Vice-President for the HSSO. She frequently volunteers with children and is currently completing an internship

with the United Way of the Lowcountry and AmeriCorps. In this internship role, Imani is responsible for provision of literacy tutoring and classroom support for local elementary school children (grades K-3).

**Darwin B. Bashaw Student of The Year Award
Amanda Mazeika**



Amanda Mazeika has been an active contributor and outstanding leader throughout our university in her time at USCB. She has been a member of the Society of Creative Writers, the English Honor Society Sigma Tau Delta, and the editorial staff (as well as occasional cover artist) for USCB's award-winning creative journal, The

Pen. She has tirelessly engaged and supported her peers for three years as a highly and consistently sought-after Writing Center Tutor, as an Orientation Leader, and as an officer for the Sand Shark Activities Board.