

USCB SHARK TALES

Vol. 1 • No. 2

Celebrating Stories of USCB Student and Alumni Success

FALL 2020

Celebrating Stories of USCB Student Success

As we look back at fall 2020 for this issue of USCB Shark Tales, an appropriate theme would be student success in the time of COVID-19. College can be a challenging time on its own. The addition of a pandemic has only served to magnify some of the challenges. Our students have experienced a myriad of emotions and difficulties during the past several months. How we help them learn to deal with those difficulties is essential to their personal growth and well-being, and their success in college and beyond.

Becoming more resilient is an important factor in being successful in college and beyond. What we know for sure is that the students highlighted in these stories are resilient. They are able to withstand or quickly bounce back from challenging situations. They know how to cope with changes and life's difficulties and have the ability to emerge with increased determination, self-awareness and self-confidence. These stories shine a bright light on our students' determination and resilient nature.

Angela Simmons
Vice Chancellor for Student Development

Eric Skipper
Provost & EVCAA

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS:



USCB alum and filmmaker Taylor Horton follows his passion

Most of us aren't destined to catch a 2,500-lb. shark using just a rod and reel, but watching USCB graduate Taylor Horton's documentary "Passion Led Me Here" is the next best thing. Horton graduated from USCB in 2012 with a B.S. in Business Administration and a concentration in Marketing. He said his marketing classes honed his business sense because "being able to see ideas come to life was motivating as well as rewarding." From a small operation filming high school football and weddings, he expanded and is now the owner of three businesses: Salt Creek Films, outdoors gear and clothing store Salt Creek Outfitters, and Salt Creek Charters.

classroom and as a parent to write *Room at the Table*, a new children's book about a boy experiencing love through the arms of a foster family when his world is spinning out of control. Justin graduated from USCB in 2011 with a B.A. in Early Childhood Education and went on to earn a master's degree in Educational Leadership from the University of South Carolina in 2019. Foster parents since 2015, Justin and his wife Abby advocate for children in need of loving homes. They also coordinate a resource center that provides necessities to families caring for children in foster care and families who have adopted children. *Room at the Table* is Justin's first novel.



Two USCB English Graduates Accepted to MAT Program at Converse College

Two USCB English majors and recent graduates, Christopher Hunt and Leah Nixon, have been accepted into Converse College's prestigious M.A.T. program to pursue their dreams of becoming English teachers. At USCB, Christopher served as president of the Society of Creative Writers and editor-in-chief of creative journal *The Pen*. Christopher graduated cum laude as the first English major to complete concentrations in both creative and professional writing and was awarded the inaugural USCB Society of Creative Writers Award for Editorial Excellence. Leah Nixon, who grew up in Beaufort, also worked



USCB alum and author Justin Vaughn champions children in foster care

USCB graduate, teacher and father Justin Vaughn channeled his experiences in the

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STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS:

(Continued from front page)

as a peer tutor at USCB's writing center, completed a senior thesis and two internships and presented her scholarship at an academic conference. She thanks Dr. Sarah Swofford, her advisor at USCB, for guiding her to the finish line.

USCB Biology student Lincoln Fuller embarks on the voyage of a lifetime: Massachusetts Expedition!



A nonprofit that gathers data about the ocean and its inhabitants, OCEARCH invited Lincoln to join a team of scientists and master fishermen who are collecting data about the health, reproduction, and migratory patterns of North Atlantic White Sharks. USCB's Dr. Kimberly Ritchie, Associate Professor of Genetics and Prokaryotic Cell Biology, helped design OCEARCH's protocol to keep this expedition COVID-safe. All participants underwent testing and the number of participants was reduced to minimize the risk of virus transmission. Lincoln trained on COVID protocols, biological principles, and boat safety all summer to prepare for the experience.

USCB Alumna Alexis Henderson Debuts Novel



Alexis Henderson, who graduated from USCB in 2017 with a B.A. in English, is celebrating the release of her

first novel. The Year of the Witching was published by Penguin/Random House and debuted last month. The book is a major achievement-it would be for any novelist, but a two-book contract with a major publisher just three years after graduation is almost unheard of. Alexis is from Savannah and was raised on a steady diet of ghost stories that inspire her eerie, gothic themes. She now lives in Charleston, South Carolina, where she is working on the sequel to The Year of the Witching, which will be published next summer.

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

Louis Brown, USCB Class of 2018, Wins Student Regional Emmy Award for Best Audio/Sound at the 2020 National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, Suncoast Chapter



After receiving his undergraduate degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, Louis Brown, USCB Class of 2018, went on to Full Sail University in Orlando, FL, where he graduated valedictorian of his Masters in Fine Arts in Film Production program. During his time at Full Sail, Louis received two Course Director awards: Business of Film and Directing Talent. Update Nov. 6, 2020: Louis has gone on to create and manage his own production company, InFocus Productions LLC, founded in March 2020. InFocus Productions has worked with nu-

merous attorneys, individuals, and small businesses throughout South Carolina, to assist them with Video, Audio & Photography Services.

USCB Sales Team Students at Parker School of Business Regional Sales Competition (Pre-Covid Regulations)



Mentored by Dr. Lynn McGee, the USCB Sales Team competed in the 2020 Parker Regional Sales Competition (PRSC) in Statesboro. The PRSC is a great place for students to mesh their classroom-based knowledge of sales with real-world applications. Based on conversations much like the one pictured above, Justin Litchfield (pictured above left), USCB senior Business Administration major, was offered a phone interview and on-site visit by a national firm! Cole Hamilton (right), USCB senior Business Administration major, is headed to an exceptional management training program for a role in distribution with JCB, an international manufacturing company. Wow! We extend our congratulations to the Sand Shark Sales Team on all of their success, and best of luck in your future endeavors!

“People will forget what you said and what you did, but they will never forget how you made them feel.”

- Maya Angelou, Poet and Author

Success in a COVID Semester

Fall 2020 is such an unusual semester that it has made it more challenging for students to have the opportunities for success. COVID has upended our typical semester. The term “success” has changed in nature. Does success, now-a-days-mean survival? Does success mean hoping for, working towards a normal life, a normal semester? Because our world right now makes success mean something totally different. Here are some insights from our current USCB students:

Jacob Thornton

Major: English Rank: Freshman

For USCB Freshman and English Major, Jacob Thornton, he felt that success for him this semester was doing well in his classes despite everything happening in our world today. Jacob voiced that at the beginning he was “a little apprehensive to come to campus,” but also was “excited to start college.” He had five classes: one face-to-face, one online synchronous and 3 online asynchronous courses. The positives that shone through this semester were his professors that were empathetic regarding due dates and circumstances and how USCB as an institution handled COVID-19 very well, with no classroom transmissions.



E Kustak

Major: Biology Rank: Junior

E Kustak, a USCB Junior and Biology major, believes their success this semester came from “keeping a hopeful and self-caring attitude” towards themselves and helping themselves grow through this pandemic. E mentioned that one of the things they struggled with this semester is the difficulty of keeping in communication with others when we are so busy keeping up with COVID guidelines and daily current events. However, through the stress and anxiety this semester carried, E expressed their “silver

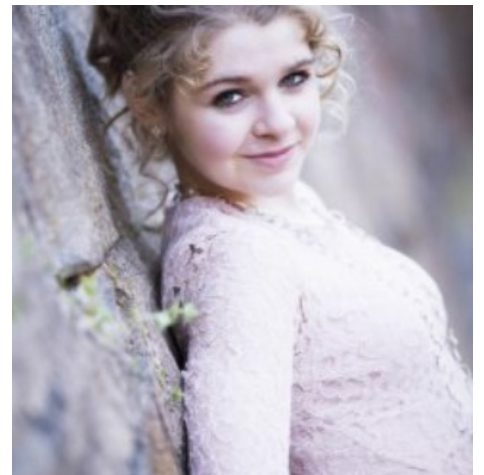
lining” as this: “I can definitely see more value when it comes to my own life as well as the connections I have with other people. I now consider myself grateful knowing I’m still alive and how I can be there for the people I support and care about so much.”

Samantha Anne Moore

Major: Hospitality Management

Rank Senior – completed degree in 3.5 years

USCB Senior and Hospitality Management major Samantha Anne Moore thought success for her this semester was finding a balance between school, extracurricular activities, socializing, and work. “With a million tasks and obligations to complete in college, recentering and devoting yourself to the important things makes all the difference.” In spite of all the exertion this semester, Samantha discovered a new passion for bike trails on HHI and new love right here at USCB.



She adds that the “perks of a small university is the tight bonds you make with others, and I am forever grateful I completed my Undergraduate degree here!” She finds that “the flexibility this semester” was a silver lining – although she lost her job, she states “I had to get creative and apply my skills in other industries and capacities to support myself. In doing this I was able to add new skills to my abilities and see how universal this degree truly is.” Samantha expresses, “the difference in choosing USCB is that there are individuals that care and want to see you succeed! I am beyond thankful to God for bringing me here and bringing such caring kindred spirits into my life from USCB.”



USCB Standout Students

These students make a difference here at USCB. We congratulate the following students that are exemplary not only in their work, but also for their hard work in and out of the classroom. Their efforts have been recognized by a professor for going above and beyond what is asked of them.

<i>Student</i>	<i>Faculty</i>
Adkins, Brice	Sevim, Volkan
Aldrich, Leia	Borton, Brett (Communication Studies faculty)
Alexander, Noah	Kratky, Rena
Allah-Davis, Heaven	Thomas, Najmah
Balderas Roque, Kevin	Garbarino, Charles
Bing, Henry "Josh"	McCoy, Erin
Bryan, Williams	Penner, Chad
	Sidletsky, Jim
Cantrell, Bryanna C.	Robinson, Chris
	Sidletsky, Jim
Carey, Shane M.	D'Antonio, Edward
Deery, Ian	Hogenboom, Tim
Dent, Robert (Robbie)	Borton, Brett (Communication Studies faculty)
Evans, Calli	Hritz, Nancy
Flores, Christine	Villena-Alvarez, Babet
Fricks, Andrew (Garrett)	Borton, Brett (Communication Studies faculty)
Hadipour, Yasna	Lahar, Cindy
Henderson, Lauren	Borton, Brett (Communication Studies faculty)
Jackson, Mytia	Robinson, Dawn
Keith, Joseph J.	Robinson, Chris
Kumar, Kaylee	Cifaldi, Barbara
Lockard, Ashley	Malphrus, Ellen
May, Sabrina	Borton, Brett (Communication Studies faculty)
McFadden, Zharia	Haering, Samantha
McLain, Jason "Reece"	Lahar, Cindy
Molloseau, Maria	Ritchie, Kim
Rains, Destiney	McCoy, Erin
Rasmussen, David "Matt"	Hammond, Beth
Riley, Madison	Marlowe, Bruce
Rodriguez, Sherry	Haering, Samantha
Safouan, Olayah	Lahar, Cindy
	Villena-Alvarez, Babet
Salazar, Vanessa	Barnes, Mollie
Schuessler, Melisa	Gibson, Su
Silva Rayo, Eileen N.	Garbarino, Charles
Smalls, Jeremy	Borton, Brett (Communication Studies faculty)
Smith, Amanda	Malphrus, Ellen
Sparks, Marquis	Hritz, Nancy
Stanton, Kate	Robinson, Dawn
Steen, Sarah	McQuillen, Jeffrey
Thomas, Tania	Staton, Joe
Valvo, Jarod	Canada, Brian (ComSci Dept)
Weeks, Clayton R.	James, Mac
Wright, Manning	Kratky, Rena

USCB Student Organization Happenings

October 2020

On October 31, 2020 the USCB Psychology Club continued its annual support of the Alzheimer's Foundation by participating in the Bluffton SC Walk to End Alzheimer's. This year the walk was "socially distanced" so club members and club advisors participated by walking in individual neighborhoods throughout Bluffton and on our USCB campus.



USCB Student Organization Happenings

October 2020

Zeta Tau Alpha at the University of South Carolina Beaufort holds an annual fundraising event, Think Pink Week. Their goal is to raise money for their philanthropy, breast cancer education and awareness. All donations will benefit the Zeta Tau Alpha Foundation to support scholarships, educational programming, leadership development and their fight against breast cancer, which includes our partnerships with Bright Pink, the NFL and the American Cancer Society. Donation Link: <https://zta.crowdchange.co/15587>



September 30-October 1, 2020

USCB's Student Government Association hosted their 3rd annual "24 Hour Walk for Life". This event serves to raise awareness about mental health during Suicide Awareness Month.



November, 2020

As of November 20, 2020, major congratulations are in order to the newly initiated Alpha Alpha Omicron chapter of Sigma Nursing! Sigma Nursing chapters seek to develop nurse leaders anywhere to improve healthcare everywhere. We are so proud of our USCB nursing leaders! Leadership pictured below: President, Dr. Lee-Ann Halbert (left); Vice President, Dr. Kim Dudas (right); and Secretary, Dr. Jo Kuehn (middle) Not pictured: Treasurer, Dr. Jana Wheeler; and Counselor, Ms Barb Nash



Welcome to our new student and graduate members!

Sara Barr
Courtney Brockbader
Jesse Brooks
Ashley Claffy
Lexi Coleman
Alexis Fortson
Julia Foster
Aly Gibson
Linda Lannister-Kreisel
Krystal Maldonado

Mackenzie Mansfield
Tylandra McCrea
Madalyn Morris
Aleigh Pound
Brittney Risher
Madison Roberts
Nicolette Schoning
Camryn Teaster
Laura Turlington
Macy Uebelhoer Belt

USCB Athletics Students

Our athletes represent USCB and their successes bring recognition to our institution.

MEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD



Field Highlights

Jana Barden – 4th – Women's shot put
Bianca Simpson – 11th – Women's shot put
Andrew Smith – 6th – Men's Pole Vault
Carter Freeman – 9th – Men's Pole Vault

Track Highlights

Jenitza Trinidad – 2nd – Women's 1000m race
Jenitza Trinidad – 2nd – Women's one-mile run
Alexa Lashley – 3rd – Women's one-mile run
Oriana Hernandez – 7th – Women's 200m

Mel Obadiah Jr. – 1st – Men's 1000m
Mel Obadiah Jr. – 1st – Men's 600m
Shamar Deacon – 4th – Men's 1000m
Shamar Deacon – 2nd – Men's 600m
Sam Williams – 6th – Men's 1000m
Junior Mitchell – 2nd – Men's 60m
Narada Adams – 1st – Men's 400m
Kadari Mitchell – 1st – Men's 200m

Three Sand Sharks Win Four Events at Rams Invitational

COLUMBIA, S.C. - Three Sand Sharks won four events in the season-opening indoor track and field meet of 2020-21, as Mel Obadiah Jr. (1000m, 600m), Narada Adams (400m) and Kadari Mitchell (200m) won their respective events on Saturday at the CIU Rams Invitational.

SAND SHARKS

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Kalvatn, Kumar Tabbed Sun Conference All-Tournament

MIAMI, Fla. - USCB women's soccer players - Mari Kalvatn and Kaylee Kumar - were named to The Sun Conference All-Tournament Team following the conclusion of the postseason tournament. Kumar started in both TSC Tournament games for USCB and helped lead the Sand Sharks to the 3-2 win over St. Thomas in the quarterfinal matchup. Kalvatn started both games in the TSC Tournament as well, and the midfielder played a big role in the quarterfinal victory over the Bobcats. The sophomore netted the game-winning goal in double overtime over STU, which advanced the Sand Sharks to the semifinals versus SEU.

