

USCB™ SHARK TALES

Vol. 3 • No. 2

Celebrating Stories of USCB Student and Alumni Success

SPRING 2022

Celebrating Stories of USCB Student Success

Our students featured in this edition of Shark Tales endured through the pandemic and they are triumphant. They lived through a period of time that will be a milestone in many history books. Their personal “histories” are significant and poignant in what they overcame. Success comes to those who work hard. But Victory, with a capital “V”-- that comes to those who persevere in detrimental times. We honor them with this edition of Shark Tales.

Eric Skipper
Provost & EVCAA

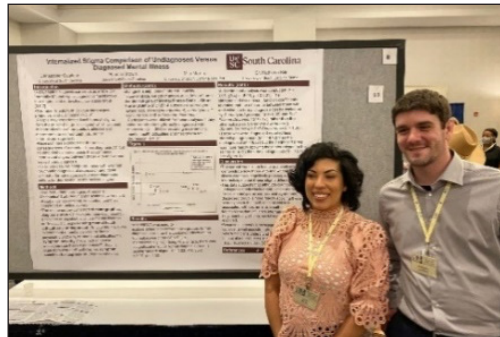
Angela Simmons
Vice Chancellor for Student Development

“ 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

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS:

USCB Celebrates These Success Stories



Mita Martin (psychology major) and **Christopher Catalano** (graduate of [Floral Park Memorial High School](#)) USCB psychology graduate 2021 and current UofSC graduate student

Presented: “Internalized stigma comparison of undiagnosed versus diagnosed mental illness” Co-authored with Hannah Brown (USC) and Kathleen Klik (USC Sumter). Poster at the Southeastern Psychological Association, March 23, 2022. [Article Link](#)

USCB’s Sierra Brown Awarded Outstanding First-Year Student of the Year Award



Sierra Brown (graduate of [Ashley Ridge High School](#)), a USCB nursing student in the Beaufort College Honors program, awarded the Out-

standing First-Year Student of the Year award at the University’s Prom Do-Over Celebration on April 13. Brown received this honor due to her commitment to USCB’s values and her involvement on campus and in the community. Brown is active in many student organizations. She assisted with the creation of a Constitution and by-laws to form the Honors Student Association, where she is this new group’s first treasurer. For the Student Nursing Association, she is serving as the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Legislative Director. She served as a speaker at USCB Beaufort Campus Student Day.

Two USCB Students Join OCEARCH Expedition for Shark Research



William Crowson (graduate of [Thomas Sumter Academy](#)) and **Tori Sember** (graduate of [Fort Mill High School](#)), who last month

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STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS:

(Continued from front page)

joined an OCEARCH research expedition in search of white sharks. Crowson and Sember are seniors and students of USC's Dr. Kim Ritchie, who is investigating properties of beneficial bacteria on the skin of sharks. During their March 4-24 expedition in waters off North Carolina, South Carolina Georgia and Florida, the students enjoyed collaboration and camaraderie with other scientists.

USCB Student Karina Julia Dorris Selected as a Ronald E. McNair Scholar



University of South Carolina Beaufort's Karina Julia Dorris (graduate of [Bluffton High School](#)), was selected by the University of South Carolina-Columbia TRIO Department to become a Ronald E. McNair Scholar. Dorris is from Bluffton, SC and graduated from Bluffton High in 2021. She will graduate from USC in 2025 with a B.S.N. in Nursing. Dorris is a 2021 Heritage Classic Foundation Scholar, a Kathleen and Jim Jordan Annual Scholarship recipient, and Beaufort College Honors student who lives in USC's student residences on the Beaufort campus. She is involved in the USC Student Advisory Council, USC Honors Student Association, Society for Collegiate Leadership & Achievement (SCLA), National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN), National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA), Gamma Beta Phi, Little People of America Association, The National So-

ciety of Leadership and Success, and the USCB Student Nurses Association (SNA). She is also part of USC's Lab For Early Affective Development (LEAD) research group. McNair projects provide opportunities for research or other scholarly activities; summer internships; seminars and other educational activities designed to prepare students for doctoral study; tutoring; academic counseling; and activities designed to assist students participating in the project in securing admission to and financial assistance for enrollment in graduate programs.

USCB Freshman Piper Davis Awarded Prestigious Department of Energy Internship



Piper Davis (graduate of [Silver Bluff High School](#)), a USC freshman in the Beaufort College Honors program, awarded the U.S. Department of Energy's Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internship (SULI) at the Savannah River National Laboratory for the summer 2022 term. Davis will be participating in a project titled "Carbon and Water Dynamics". The project will study CO2 in vegetation at the Savannah River Site and monitor meteorology and water and carbon fluxes to determine how the fluxes are affected by weather events.

USCB Student Richard Bennett Selected as 2022 Newman Civic Fellow

The Newman Civic Fellowship recognizes students who stand out for their commitment to creating positive change in communities locally and around the world. The fellowship named for the late Frank Newman, one of Campus Compact's founders, who was a tireless ad-



vocate for civic engagement in higher education. Bennett, who is a first-generation college student, is a tireless advocate for children and under-resourced adults in his community. He has assisted with HIV/AIDS education, purchased and delivered holiday meals and care packages for the homeless, and volunteered in homeless shelters. Presently, he writes and publishes self-help books to help people be the best version of themselves, and facilitates community meetings to provide support and accountability. As a continuation of his work as a mentor for students at a local high school, he is developing and implementing a parenting program to help families with young people who are growing up in single-parent households.

From the Netherlands to USCB: Cleo De Ridder

Through a reciprocal agreement between USC and HZ University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands, De Ridder arrived on Jan. 5 to live for four



months on USCB's Bluffton Campus. Her classes are on Hilton Head Island. De Ridder's major at HZ University is Tourism Management, and she is thrilled to be studying Hospitality here in a world-class vacation destination. Through her coursework at USCB, she has become acquainted with many aspects of the tourism industry that are new to her.

USCB and SCETV Launch "By The River" as a National TV Show



Now in its fourth season, "By The River" is being distributed by American Public Television to public television affiliates across the U.S. starting this month. Highlighting Southern culture and literature, the show is a love letter to Southern stories and the authors and poets who write them. More than 50 USCB students have worked on the episodes, which filmed in SCETV's studio in Beaufort. They operate the cameras, record the audio, help coordinate the authors' appearances, and promote the show and more.



2022 STUDENT ORGANIZATION AWARDS

Impact Award
Alpha Kappa Alpha

Unsung Hero Award
Adejah Hall

Finnegan's Pride Award
Sand Shark Activities Board

Athletic Leadership Award
Kyrán Russ

Health Heroes Award
Public Health Student Organization

Student Organization President of the Year
Karns Hazlett

Student Organization of the Year
Best Buddies

Student Organization Advisor of the Year

Emerging Leader Award
Justin Michonski

Dr. Joe Iglesias



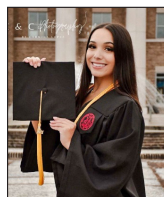
USCB
ACADEMIC AWARDS 2022



ZYAMANII BAKSH
OUTSTANDING BIOLOGY STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD
Zyamanii is a graduate of [Leilehua High School](#).



WILLIAM MERCADO
OUTSTANDING COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCE STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD
William is a graduate of [Hilton Head High School](#).



VANESSA DIAZ
OUTSTANDING BUSINESS STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD
Vanessa is a graduate of [Bluffton High School](#).



TREVOR PUTNAM
OUTSTANDING INFORMATION SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD
Trevor is a graduate of [Churchville-Chili Senior High School](#).

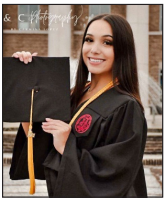


HANNAH MERCHANT
PAMELA J. COOPER COMMUNICATION STUDIES STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD
Hannah is a graduate of [Punxsutawney Area Senior High School](#).



KAYLEE KUMAR
OUTSTANDING EDUCATION STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD
Kaylee is a graduate of [Leonardtwn High School](#).

USCB ACADEMIC AWARDS 2022



VANESSA DIAZ
TOMBE/EBY
OUTSTANDING
ENGLISH STUDENT OF
THE YEAR AWARD

Vanessa is a graduate of [Bluffton High School](#).



KIMBERLY
BINUELO WILKIE
PALMETTO COLLEGE ON-
LINE HUMAN SERVICES
DEGREE COMPLETION
OUTSTANDING STUDENT
OF THE YEAR AWARD

Kimberly is a graduate of [North Henderson High School](#).



MADISON
CHINICH
CHARLES L. SPIRRISON
PSYCHOLOGY
OUTSTANDING
STUDENT OF THE YEAR
AWARD

Madison is a graduate of [Northport Senior High School](#).



ABIGAIL NETTLES
GOVERNOR PAUL
HAMILTON SONS OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION
OUTSTANDING STUDENT IN
HISTORY AWARD

Abigail is a graduate of [McBee High School](#).



JENNIFER NETTLES
GORDON HAIST
INTERDISCIPLINARY
STUDIES OUTSTANDING
STUDENT OF THE YEAR
AWARD

Jennifer is a graduate of [Stratford High School](#).



REBECCA BALL
OUTSTANDING STUDIO
ARTS STUDENT OF THE
YEAR AWARD

Rebecca is a graduate of [South Carolina Connections Academy](#).



KARNS HAZLETT
OUTSTANDING
HOSPITALITY
MANAGEMENT STUDENT
OF THE YEAR AWARD

Karns is a graduate of [Deer Lakes Junior-Senior High School](#).



JOHN D.
TOTUSZYNSKI
OUTSTANDING
NURSING STUDENT OF
THE YEAR AWARD

John is a graduate of [Northwood Academy](#).

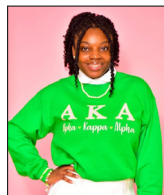


RICHARD
BENNETT
NEWMAN CIVIC
FELLOWSHIP AWARD

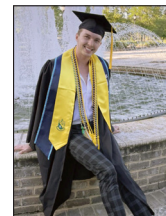


ASYA WIDEMAN
OUTSTANDING PUBLIC
HEALTH STUDENT OF
THE YEAR AWARD

Asya is a graduate of [Westwood High School](#).

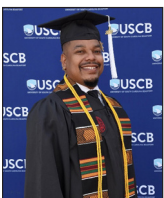


TAMARA
PENDARVIS
OUTSTANDING
SOCIOLOGY STUDENT
OF THE YEAR AWARD



ETHAN BENNETT
DARWIN B. BASHAW
STUDENT OF THE YEAR
AWARD

Ethan is a graduate of [Colleton County High School](#).



QAADIR PHILLIPS
LYNN M. MULKEY HUMAN
SERVICES PROGRAM
OUTSTANDING STUDENT
OF THE YEAR AWARD

Qaadir is a graduate of [Brunswick High School](#).



2022 Student Research and Scholarship Day

MONDAY
April
18

Category and Place	Title	Names
Oral Presentations 1st Malphrus	The Joy Room	Selena Menjivar
Oral Presentations 2nd Malphrus	The Disillusioned Perspective	Samantha Derenthal
Oral Presentations 3rd Malphrus	Fragments of a Transient Being: Poems and Prose	Gabrielle Stile
Inquiry-based 1st Brugler	Assessing the Biodiversity of Oyster Reefs Using eDNA	Iesha Whittaker, Kristen Mullins, Chris Marsh, Peter Kingsley-Smith, Robert Dunn, Maggie Pelton
Inquiry-based 2nd Chojnowski	Histological and Genetic Identification of Plants	Heidi Baker
Descriptive 1st Sawyer	Play like a girl	Sophia Peach
Descriptive 2nd Caroline Sawyer	How History Shaped the Identity of the Black Community	Jeremy Smalls
Descriptive 3rd Erdei	Relationship Between Forced Sexual Acts and Suicide Attempts in Grade School Students	Samuel Cartier, Bianca Simpson
Hypothesis 1st Farrell	Self-regulation and Attachment Behavior in Pandemic Preschoolers	Murray Flowers
Hypothesis 2nd Farrell	Correlation Between Social Competence and Emotional Regulation Liability/Negativity in Preschool Aged Children	Samantha Taylor
Hypothesis 3rd Farrell	The Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Children's Regulatory Abilities	Jackson Councilman, Isabella Sineo
Issue-based 1st Ritchie	Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease	Victoria Sember
Issue-based 2nd Pettay	SARS-CoV-2 Variants in the Lowcountry	Zyamanni Baksh, Melfry Gonzalez, Samuel Messinides
Issue-based 3rd DebRoy	Risk of High Blood Pressure Based on Weight Status Among 8th Graders in Hampton County, SC	Abby Rogers, William Crowson, Yessina Bledsoe-Becerra, Chloe McCamey, Meadow Chastaine, Lamar Petties
Innovation/application 1st Canada	Plastic Afterlife: Using Psychology and Tangential Learning in Game Design	Cassy Cooper
Innovation/application 2nd Canada	ReyCalci: Prototype of a Proposed "Web App" for the University of South Carolina Beaufort	John Hiers, Yash Bhanushali, Flowrence Dirisipamu
Innovation/application 3rd Canada	God's Rival: A Video Game Inspired by a Logical Fallacy and a Cognitive Bias	Nithish Nadham Dirisipamu
Visual Arts 1st Angell	Vessels and Veneration, Reliquaries and Revelation	Toni Chavis
Visual Arts 2nd Angell	Sacred Solitude	Rebecca Ball
Visual Arts 3rd Angell	Dreamscapes	Claire Morgan
Social Justice Sawyer	Play Like a Girl	Sophia Peach

2022 Magellan Scholar Awardees

Magellan Scholars compete in the UofSC system for research grant funding.

Lauren Heath, Senior

Health Promotion, USC Beaufort – Magellan Scholar, Summer-Fall 2022

Women's Mental Health Experiences of Pregnancy and Post-Partum in the Era of Social Isolation: A Grounded Theory Exploration.

Mentor: Alyssa Mayer, Nursing and Health Professions, USC Beaufort

Isabella Aahlen Jakobs, Junior

(graduate of International High School, Sweden)

Communication Studies, Film Studies, USC Beaufort – Magellan Mini-Grant, spring 2022

Mål or Goal?: Understanding Intercultural Communication Barriers in Soccer for Scandinavian Student-Athletes

Mentor: Caroline Sawyer, Business Administration, USC Beaufort

Yessenia Bledsoe-Becerra, Senior

(graduate of William J Pete Knight High School)

Biology, USC Beaufort - Magellan Scholar, spring 2022

Characterizing the diversity of ctenophores from the Port Royal Sound (Beaufort SC) using molecular barcodes

Mentor: Mercer Brugler, Natural Sciences, USC Beaufort

Dillon Haraburd, Junior

Computational Science, USC Beaufort - Magellan Mini-Grant, Spring 2022

Analyzing Smart Vehicle Datasets to Design a Vehicular Peercloud Network

Mentor: Xiaomei Zhang, Mathematics and Computational Science, USC Beaufort

Brennen Placke, Senior

(graduate of Bluffton High School)

Computational Science, USC Beaufort - Magellan Mini-Grant, Spring 2022

Analyzing Smart Vehicle Datasets to Design a Vehicular Peercloud Network

Mentor: Xiaomei Zhang, Mathematics and Computational Science, USC Beaufort

Zack Stiltner, Junior

(graduate of Fort Mill High School)

Computer Science, USC Beaufort - Magellan Mini-Grant, spring 2022

Analyzing Smart Vehicle Datasets to Design a Vehicular Peercloud Network

Mentor: Xiaomei Zhang, Mathematics and Computational Science, USC Beaufort

Ally Robertson, Junior

(graduate of Colleton County High School)

Sociology, USC Beaufort - Magellan Scholar, spring 2022

Compersion as a Form of Mate Retention

Mentor: Justin Mogilski, Psychology, USC Salkehatchie