



## *Message from Dr. Al M. Panu, Chancellor*

Dear Colleagues,

Below you will find a testament to the dynamic environment at the University of South Carolina Beaufort and the notable achievements of our faculty and staff during the second half of 2024. The enthusiasm within our community is palpable, and excellence is a defining characteristic of our institution. It is evident that our steadfast focus on student-centered engagement forms the foundation of our collective accomplishments. Each recognition of faculty success contributes to student achievement, creating a positive impact that resonates across our university and beyond. And, although, the years ahead may bring much change, we remain committed to supporting our students and enhancing the reputation of our university.

To our remarkable Sand Sharks, we extend our sincere gratitude for your dedicated efforts!

## RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP & INTELLECTUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

**Beall, Christina, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC** • Department Chair and Associate Professor of Nursing  
(Department of Nursing)

**Published.** "Examining the presence and sources of negative behaviors among registered nurses and unlicensed assistive personnel." Dr. Diana Layne (PI). Christina Beall (Co-investigator). Accepted for publication in *Nursing Reports*, July 2024. [Publication Link](#)

**Invited Speaker.** "State of Nursing in South Carolina." Hilton Head Rotary, September 2024. Hilton Head Island, SC.

**Brandt, Ken, M.S.** • Astronomy Lecturer  
(Department of Natural Sciences)

**Awarded.** IPS Fellow Award. International Planetarium Society (IPS). July 2024. [Organization Link](#)

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**Catma, Serkan, PhD** • Professor of Economics  
(Department of Business and Communication Studies)

**Awarded.** University of Tennessee Grant Challenge. Strengthening Rural Communities (\$85,000). [Award Link](#)

**Published.** "Unlocking insights in real estate markets: Integrating geo-spatial data for comprehensive property valuation and urban planning". Data in Brief, volume 57, December 2024. [Publication Link](#)

**Presented (session chair).** "Predicting COVID-19 Mortality Rates: An Analysis of Case Incidence, Mask Usage, and Machine Learning Approaches in U.S. Counties" 38th International Research Association for Interdisciplinary Studies Conference on Social Sciences and Humanities, November 21-22, 2024, Washington D.C. [Conference Link](#)

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**Cobb, Warren, MLIS** • Research and Instruction Librarian  
(USCB Library)

**Presented.** "Swedish Death Weeding." South Carolina Library Association Annual Conference. October 2023. [Conference Link](#)

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**Cohan, Deborah J., PhD** • Professor of Sociology  
(Department of Humanities and Social Sciences)

**Published.** "Why Grad Schools Should Make the Case for Public Scholarship." *Inside Higher Ed*, October 4, 2024. [Publication Link](#)

**Published.** "The Crisis of Disclosure on our Campuses." *Inside Higher Ed*, August 13, 2024. [Publication Link](#)

**Podcast Interview.** "Rethinking Family Life: Resilience and Adaptation." Family Research Labs, Melbourne, Australia, November 7, 2024.

**Media Coverage.** Quoted in story "In-Depth Look at the Most Sinful Cities in 2024." WalletHub, November 18, 2024. [Publication Link](#)

**Presented.** "Navigating Caregiving and Complicated Family Dynamics." *Caring for the Caregiver* Summit hosted by Courage to Caregivers Cleveland, OH, November 12, 2024. [Conference Link](#)

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**D'Antonio, Edward, PhD** • Professor of Structural Biology and Biochemistry  
(Department of Natural Sciences)

**Blog Publication.** "Opinion piece: Selecting the right journal for your research." SciProfiles 2024, Link: [Publication Link](#)

**Patent Application.** "Tetrazolium-based colorimetric assay." With Mercaldi, G.F. US Patent App. 18/601,112, 2024. [Patent Organization Link](#)

**Presented.** "Exploration of Gossypol Derivatives as Potential Antichagasic Agents." USCB

Dept. of Natural Sciences: Biology Seminar Series. University of South Carolina Beaufort (Bluffton, SC), 13 September 2024.

**Invited Guest Speaker.** By Prof. Sabrina Absalon. "Exploration of Gossypol Derivatives as Potential Antichagasic Agents." PEERs in Parasitology: 2024 Parasite Hour - Seminar Series. Recorded and Live Broadcast at Indiana University, School of Medicine, 15 November 2024. [Presentation Link](#)

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**Farrell, Carmen, PhD** • Assistant Professor of Psychology  
(Department of Humanities and Social Sciences)

**Presented.** "Undergraduate Learning of Open Science and Preregistration." Annual Conference on Teaching, Society for the Teaching of Psychology. October 10-12, 2024 in Louisville, KY. Conference Program Link: [Conference Link](#)

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**Heiens, Richard, PhD** • Professor of Marketing  
(Department of Business and Communication Studies)

**Published.** "Examining the use of Gender as a Segmentation Variable in the Central Asian Region: Evidence from Consumer Beverage Consumption Patterns." With Dinara Kozhakhmetova and Larry Pleshko of KIMEP University, Kazakhstan. Central Asia Business Journal, Vol. 24, No. 1, pp. 27-49. [Publication Link](#)

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**James, Timothy M., PhD** • Professor of History  
(Department of Humanities and Social Sciences)

**Presented.** "Leyes de procedimiento, la Suprema Corte y la reforma agraria," at the Primer Congreso de la Asociación Latinoamericana de Historia Rural, in Mexico City, on June 26, 2024. [Conference Link](#)

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**Kelley, Kimberly, PhD** • Director of Libraries  
(USCB Library)

**Published.** "Risk vs. Reward: Controlled Digital Lending for Interlibrary Loan." Computers in Libraries. Summer, 2024. [Publication Link](#)

**Awarded.** Teaching with Artificial Intelligence 2024 Digital Badge. EDUCAUSE. [Badge Link](#)

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**Kilgore, Robert, PhD** • Associate Professor of English  
(Department of English, the Arts and Interdisciplinary Studies)

**Published.** With Brian Henderson. "Working for a Better World." Review of Amelia Horgan, "Lost in Work." *Academe*, Spring 2024. [Publication Link](#)

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**Kuehn, Jo DNP, RN, CNE, CPHQ** • Assistant Professor of Nursing

(Department of Nursing)

**Published.** Kuehn, J. (2024). "Raising awareness of regional issues related to the social determinants of health: nursing honor students in action through service-learning." *Nurse Educator*. 49(6). October 2024. DOI: 10.1097/NNE.0000000000001727. [Publication Link](#)

**Elected.** Chair of the Advisory Committee on Nursing Education (ACONE) of the South Carolina State Board of Nursing. December 20, 2024.

**Reviewer.** Of manuscripts for publication for "Teaching and Learning in Nursing Journal" [Journal Link](#) and "Applied Nursing Research Journal." [Journal Link](#)

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**Lahar, Cindy PhD** • Professor of Psychology

(Department of Humanities and Social Sciences)

**Awarded.** The South Carolina Trustees Professorship for System Campuses Award. 2024. Office of the Provost at University of South Carolina. [Award Link](#)

**Presented.** "Exploring *Nunchi* or How to Read a Room." Korean Cultural Studies Conference. October 25, 2024, Hilton Head Island, SC. [Conference Link](#)

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**Messick, Kyle, PhD** • Assistant Professor

(Department of Humanities and Social Sciences)

**Presented.** "South Korean Culture and Metal Music." Korean Cultural Studies Conference. October 25, 2024, Hilton Head Island, SC. [Conference Link](#)

**Presented.** Silver, C., Messick, K., Andrews, W., & Bass, A. "Understanding and measuring the new secular identity." At the meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 2024. [Conference Link](#)

**Published.** "Are heavy metal fans sexist?: The relationship between metal music depicting misogynistic violence and sexism." With D. Agcaoili, H. Drane & H. Taylor. *Metal Music Studies*, 10(1), 41-60, 2024. [Publication Link](#)

**Published.** "The psychology of metal music, culture, & dis/ability." In J. H. Shadrack & K. Kahn-Harris, *Heavy Metal Music and Dis/Ability: Crips, Crowds, and Cacophony* (pp. 66-79) 2024. Intellect. [Publication Link](#)

**Interviewed in popular media.** "In the Hole w/ Kyle Messick." (Maimed and Sewer Rot Records). *Heavy Hole Podcast*. Smith, W. (2024, June). [Interview Link](#)

**Interviewed in popular media.** "The stench of perseverance.: *Decibel*, 234, 55-64. Norton, J. M. (2024, April). [Issue Link](#)

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**Montie, Eric W., PhD** • Associate Professor of Biology

(Department of Natural Sciences)

**Awarded.** The fourth year of funding (\$20,370) for a five-year grant from the NOAA Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) / Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional

Association (SECOORA) for the project entitled, “The Estuarine Soundscape Observatory Network in the Southeast (ESONS).” [Award Link](#)

**Awarded.** The first year of funding (\$115,000) for a new five-year grant totaling \$495,000 from NOAA / University of Delaware / SECOORA entitled, “Inflation Reduction Act: Sharing Passive Acoustic Monitoring Data from the Estuarine Soundscape Observatory Network in the Southeast (ESONS) with the IOOS Association.” [Award Link](#)

**Published.** Ji, Y., Marian, A.D., Montie, E.W. (2024). “Deep-Learning-Based detection of recreational vessels in an estuarine soundscape in the May River, South Carolina, USA.” *PLoS ONE* 19(7), e0302497. [Publication Link](#)

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**Nadeau, Angela, MA** • Instructor

*(Department of Humanities and Social Sciences)*

**Presented.** “International Athletics: The Psychology of Tae Kwon Do.” Korean Cultural Studies Conference. October 25, 2024, Hilton Head Island, SC. [Conference Link](#)

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**Reibel, Melody, PhD** • MSN-Ed, RN Associate Professor of Nursing

*(Department of Nursing)*

**Invited Speaker.** “Assessment of Nursing Student Clinical Judgment in the Simulation Learning Environment.” South Carolina Nurses Association State Conference. Myrtle Beach, SC. October 19, 2024. [Event Link](#)

**Poster Presentation.** “Nursing Experiential Learning Activities.” USCB Exploring Experiential Faculty Learning Conference. Bluffton, SC. November 1, 2024. [Event Link](#)

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**Ricardo, Libby, M.F.A.** • Associate Professor of Theater and Interdisciplinary Studies

*(Department of English, the Arts, and Interdisciplinary Studies)*

**Awarded.** Received Ray Doughty Arts Integration Award. Fall 2024. Palmetto State Arts Education. Award link is currently included under the conference link: [Conference Link](#)

**Presented.** “Pursuing Synergy: Seeking partnerships across the transdisciplinary landscape” with Amy Leaphart and Dr. Morgin Jones Williams. Palmetto State Arts Education Annual Arts Integration Conference. October 22, 2024. [Conference Link](#)

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**Sawyer, Caroline, PhD** • Associate Professor

*(Department of Business and Communication Studies)*

**Awarded.** Governor’s Awards in the Humanities and the Akers Prize. Fall 2024. South Carolina Humanities. [Award Link](#)

**Presented.** “Communications and Media in South Korea.” Korean Cultural Studies Conference. October 25, 2024, Hilton Head Island, SC. Conference Program Link: [Conference Link](#)

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**Shinn, James M., PhD** • Assistant Professor of History

*(Department of Humanities and Social Sciences)*

**Awarded.** Organization of American Historians (OAH) Distinguished Lectureship Program. Fall 2024. [Award Link](#)

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**Sidletsky, James, MFA** • Assistant Professor of Media Arts

*(Department of English, the Arts, and Interdisciplinary Studies)*

**Presented.** "Old Folktales and New Technology". CASP, Collective of Animation Scholars and Practitioners Affiliate Session at SECAC (formerly the Southeastern College Art Conference). Atlanta, GA. Fall 2024

**Selected Panelist.** Official Selection and Panelist. For short film "112 Steps." South Carolina Underground Film Festival. Columbia, SC. Fall 2024. [Selection Link](#)

**Official Selection.** For short film "112 Steps." Krampus Film Festival. Asbury Park, NJ. Fall 2024. [Festival Link](#)

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**Sisino, Andrea** • Associate Vice Chancellor of Community Outreach and Director

*(Osher Lifelong Learning Institute - OLLI)*

**Organized.** "USCB 20th Anniversary Birthday Bash Reunion!" Opening Event as part of USCB 20th Anniversary, USCB Bluffton, SC, October 2024. [Event Link](#)

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**Skipper, Eric, PhD** • Provost and EVCAA

*(Division of Academic Affairs)*

**Presented.** "La educación provincial española reflejada en dos novelas: José de Armando Palacio Valdés y La barraca de Vicente Blasco Ibáñez." XXXVII Congreso Internacional de Literatura y Estudios Hispánicos. Virtual. Oct. 25, 2024. [Conference Link](#)

**Published.** "Struggling US regional colleges' best hope is to embrace CX and AI." *Times Higher Education*. 5 December 2024. [Organization Link](#)

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**Villena-Alvarez, Babet, PhD** • Professor of French, Spanish and Global Studies •

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

*(Department of Humanities and Social Sciences)*

**Nominated and Selected.** *Fulbright-Hays Ambassador 2024-2025* for the U.S. Department of Education International and Foreign Language Education Offices. [Contact](#) and [Website Link](#)

**Presented.** "Experiencing Korean Culture: Touch, Feel, Hear, Taste, and See" Korean Cultural Studies Conference. October 25, 2024, Hilton Head Island, SC. [Conference Program Link](#)

**Invited Speaker.** "Growth of Korean Industries in the Region" Rotary Club of Hilton Head Island - VanLandingham, July 30, 2024. USCB Campus, Hilton Head Island, SC. [Event Link](#)

*Invited Speaker.* “Timeline of How Korean Industries Have Established Roots in the Region”  
June 18, 2024. Hilton Head Island, SC. [Organization Link](#)

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**Weir, Carol** • Senior Director of Communications  
(Office of Communications)

*Demonstration.* “Cooking Bibimbap.” Korean Cultural Studies Conference. October 25, 2024,  
Hilton Head Island, SC. [Conference Program Link](#)

*Presented.* “International Cooking Demonstration: Cooking Bibimbap.” USCB International  
Week. November 20, 2024. Bluffton, SC.

## USCB COLLABORATIONS

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**Erdei, Ronald, PhD** • Professor of Computer Science (Department of Computer Science and  
Mathematics), **Marlowe, Bruce, PhD** • Chair and Professor of Educational Psychology and  
Special Education (Department of Education)

- *Presented.* The “Holy Curiosity of Inquiry”: Back to the Real Basics in Secondary and  
University Education.” 2024 Association for Constructivist Teaching Conference.  
October 19, 2024. [Conference Link](#)

**Lahar, Cindy, PhD** • Professor of Psychology (Department of Humanities and Social Sciences),  
**Roberts, Summer, PhD** • Associate Professor of Sociology (Department of Humanities and  
Social Science)

- *Presented.* “Older and Younger as Other: Obstacles to Age-Friendliness on Campus.”  
Presentation at the 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of  
American, Seattle, WA, November, 2024. [Conference Link](#)

**Sisino, Andrea** • Associate Vice Chancellor of Community Outreach and Director (Osher  
Lifelong Learning Institute - OLLI) **Villena-Alvarez, Juanita, PhD** • Professor of French,  
Spanish and Global Studies, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (Department of  
Humanities and Social Sciences), **Weir, Carol** • Senior Director of Communications

- *Co-Directed.* Korean Cultural Studies Conference, USCB Hilton Head Island Campus,  
October 2024. [Conference Schedule Link](#)

**Sisino, Andrea** • Associate Vice Chancellor of Community Outreach and Director (Osher  
Lifelong Learning Institute - OLLI), **Villena-Alvarez, Juanita, PhD** • Professor of French,  
Spanish and Global Studies, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (Department of  
Humanities and Social Sciences) et al.

- *Organized and participated.* “20th Anniversary Panel Discussion: How USCB’s  
Educational Vision Became a Reality” as part of USCB 20th Anniversary Public Forums:

## USCB GRANTS – \$2,954,267.00

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**Beachkofsky, Sarah.** Town of Hilton Head Island, \$235,000.00 Vision for the Future: A Collaboration between USCB and the Town of Hilton Head Island (*Renewal*).

**Beachkofsky, Sarah.** Town of Bluffton, \$32,500.00. Bluffton Ambassador Program (*Renewal*).

**Brugler, Mercer.** Spring Island Trust, \$25,000. Elucidating Oyster Reef Biodiversity with eDNA (*Extended*).

**Dudas, Kimberly.** Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)/Health & Human Services, \$1,000,000.00 (*Ongoing*). USCB: Increasing Pre-Licensure Educational Capacity in the Lowcountry.

**Erdei, Ron.** Sea Islands Institute, \$3,232. USCB & The Children's Center: Early Learning Application [Phase 4] (**NEW**).

**Gill, Diana.** Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)/HHS, \$500,000.00. Public Health Scholarship Program (*Renewal*).

**Madden, Kathryn.** Community Foundation of the Lowcountry Impact Award, \$65,000. USCB's Life Science Education Living Laboratory (**NEW**).

**Madden, Kathryn.** Community Foundation of the Lowcountry & the Grant Making Partners Fund, \$2,500. USCB's Life Science Education Living Laboratory (**NEW**).

**Marlowe, Bruce.** US Department of Education (USDE), \$987,845.00 (*Renewal*). Melding Academics, Support, and Training of Educators for higher Retention Yields (MASTERY).

**Montie, Eric.** NOAA/IOOS via Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA)/University of Delaware, \$115,000/year; \$495,000 total. Inflation Reduction Act: Sharing Passive Acoustic Monitoring Data from the Estuarine Soundscape Observatory Network in the Southeast (ESONS) with the IOOS Association (**NEW**).

**Montie, Eric.** NOAA/IOOS via Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA), \$100,000.00. Estuarine Soundscape Observatory Network in the Southeast (ESONS) (*Renewal*).

**Montie, Eric.** Port Royal Sound Foundation, \$15,000.00. Bottlenose Dolphin Monitoring in the Port Royal Sound Area - Establishing a Flagship Program for the Port Royal Sound Foundation. (*Renewal*).

**Montie, Eric.** Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, University of North Carolina Wilmington, \$104,370/year; 206,861 total. Testing a Novel Strategy to Measure Underwater Radiated Noise of Vessels in Shallow Coastal Oceans. (*Extended*).

**Pettay, Daniel.** Sea Grant Consortium & Clemson University, \$26,817/year; \$51,558 total. Determining bacteria and turbidity sources to inform management and outreach across the Edisto Island Watershed. (**NEW**).



**Pettay, Daniel.** Town of Bluffton, \$185,000.00 Town of Bluffton Water Quality MOU  
(Renewal).

**Pettay, Daniel.** Town of Bluffton, \$50,000.00 Bacterial source tracking for the Town of Bluffton in the May River. (Renewal).

**Pettay, Daniel.** Beaufort County, \$170,000.00 Beaufort County Water Quality MOU.  
(Renewal).

**Pettay, Daniel.** Spring Island Trust, \$10,000. Understanding nutrient cycling and its influence on phytoplankton abundance in the Port Royal Sound. (NEW).

**Skipper, Eric.** National Science Foundation (NSF), \$448,853/year; \$998,073 total. NSF Engines Development Award: Advancing Cybersecurity Technologies for the Maritime System (SC). (Renewal).

**Villena-Alvarez, Juanita.** US Department of Education (USDE) / Fulbright, \$125,474.00. USCB South Korean and Asian Literacy Education (SKALE) (Extended).

**Villena-Alvarez, Juanita & Cavanagh, Kim; Kelley, Kim; Lahar, Cindy; Nadeau, Angela; Weir, Carol.** Sea Islands Institute. \$7,520.00. The 2025 Lowcountry and Coastal Empire One-Day Conference on Asian Studies (Second Year Conference) (NEW).

**Total for the period (new & renewals): \$2,954,267.00.**

## Faculty Mentored Undergraduate Research

Cruz, Brendan (student). USC Office of Undergraduate Research, Magellan Scholar. \$2,500. Leveraging eDNA to Determine if Lionfish are Present in the Port Royal Sound. **Mentor:** **Brugler, Mercer.**

[Fin-tastic and Shark Tales submissions](#)

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