



As the year draws to a close, I, like you, am looking forward to celebrations with family and friends. We value this time spent with loved ones and the special memories we create. Just recently, nearly 500 students and their families enjoyed an especially joyous occasion – college graduation, a proud moment for the entire university community.



For some, graduation is just the first step on a longer educational path. For others, it marks the completion of an academic journey and the start of a professional one. All worked hard to achieve that milestone, but support from families, faculty, staff and mentors is a critical part of that success.

We often refer to USC Upstate as a family. Like a strong family, we look out for one another, support each another through the tough times and celebrate the good ones, and occasionally give out a little tough love. Graduation is what happens when we do all those things well.

I am proud of the family we have created at USC Upstate, and I look forward to the memories we have yet to create together. Happy holidays and best wishes for the new year.

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### **A New Chapter for the Library**

The Upstate Library is growing! The USC board of trustees recently gave approval to the university to move forward with a \$21 million project that will enable the university to continue modernizing its 46-year-old Library and enhance the student experience on campus. The project includes the construction of a new 22,000-square-foot "annex" adjacent to the existing 74,000-square-foot Library building and a renovation of the building's second floor. It will be cumulatively funded with appropriated state funds provided in the fiscal year budgets for 2022 and 2023.

USC Upstate intends to select an architectural and engineering design team during the first quarter of 2023. The project is expected to be completed by Fall 2026. Read more [here](#).

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### **Be a Spartan Road Warrior!**

Now available, the USC Upstate specialty license plate! For \$70 you can show your love for Upstate and support our university, too -- \$40 of each sale will benefit the General Scholarship Fund. Plus, license plates make great holiday gifts! Applications and information can be found at [uscupstate.edu/licenseplate](http://uscupstate.edu/licenseplate).

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### Hats Off to Our Graduates

USC Upstate awarded 478 bachelor's and master's degrees during its fall 2022 graduation on Saturday, Dec. 10. Families and friends watched the ceremony at Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium in person and via livestream. Photos and video of the event can be viewed at [uscupstate.edu/graduation](https://uscupstate.edu/graduation).

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### Putting Down Roots in the Community

USC Upstate celebrated Arbor Day this year with a special tree planting at the Beaumont Village playground. Spartanburg Mayor **Jerome Rice**, '08, above right, marked the day with a proclamation, then was joined for the planting by **RJ Gimbl**, vice chancellor for university advancement, from left, **Josh Baker**, grounds maintenance coordinator for the city of Spartanburg, and **Anne Flynn**, USC Upstate Foundation board member. Participants then traveled to campus for the second part of the program, a fireside chat with Laura Ringo, executive director of PAL: Play. Advocate. Live Well. Photos from the event can be found [here](#).

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### News in Brief

- **Ona Egbue**, an associate professor in informatics and engineering systems, was elected to the American Society for Engineering Management (ASEM) Fellows in October. An ASEM Fellow is the highest level of ASEM membership and recognizes significant achievement in the field.

- **Julie McMahon**, director of Housing & Residential Life, recently presented two program sessions at the South Carolina Housing Officers Association (SCHOA) annual meeting showcasing activities from USC Upstate and the state association. She also has been elected to serve a two-year term as the South Carolina representative for the Southeastern Association of Housing Officers.
  - The Housing & Residential Life Office will host the 2024 South Carolina Housing Officers Association (SCHOA) conference during fall break of 2024. Housing officers from various public and private institutions across South Carolina will be in attendance. **Chancellor Bennie Harris** will be the keynote speaker and **Tery Burt**, assistant director for Housing & Residential Life, is the conference chair.
  - The art education and art studio graphic design bachelor's programs have both been re-accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design for the next 10 years.
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## UPCOMING

- Valerie Zimany, ceramic artist. Jan. 12- Feb. 12, 2023, Upstate Art Gallery at the Chapman Cultural Center, 200 E. St. John St., Spartanburg. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday; 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursday; 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday. Free.
  - Homecoming, Feb. 24-25, 2023
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## ICYMI

- First Lady Frankie Harris shares holiday gifts with Kids Club. [VIDEO](#)
  - First Lady Frankie Harris shares holiday gifts with BRUH. [VIDEO](#)
  - MBCON pinning ceremony. [PHOTOS](#)
  - Late Night Breakfast: Ugly Holiday Sweater Edition. [PHOTOS](#)
  - Commercial Music Combo: Revisiting Woodstock. [PHOTOS](#)
  - 10(ish) Questions with senior business major Thomas Sheida. [VIDEO](#)
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## Share Your Stories!

Submit story ideas [here](#), or contact Elizabeth Anderson in the Marketing and Communications office at [eanders2@uscupstate.edu](mailto:eanders2@uscupstate.edu).

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