



A Note From the Chancellor

Our fall semester has gotten off to a busy start. We kicked off Family Weekend this year with Morgan Square Madness, a high-profile event in downtown Spartanburg that generated a lot of buzz for our men's and women's basketball season and our university. I was pleased to see so many of you there wearing your green and cheering for our Spartans. These events help elevate our university's profile in the community, and I look forward to this becoming a tradition that our campus and the community anticipate.



We've had other successes to celebrate, too. A Prisma Health grant for nursing scholarships is the most recent recognition by a major employer of the high caliber of our students. Our students' success in turn reflects the outstanding teaching and guidance they receive from faculty and staff. I am proud to be part of an academic community that works together to help one another reach greater heights.



It's a Family Affair for USC Upstate

USC Upstate brought the campus to the city on Oct. 6 with [Morgan Square Madness](#), a new event spotlighting the men's and women's basketball teams. With an enthusiastic crowd of green-clad spectators and residents looking on, adults and children took part in friendly competitions on a court set up in Morgan Square, while team members showed off their skills.

The fun continued with [Rocktoberfest](#) on Oct. 7, which this year invited families to share in the festivities with their students, and [Family Fest](#) on Oct. 8, where families of students, staff, and faculty enjoyed games, activities and a barbecue feast hosted by the chancellor and first lady.



Another Infusion for the Nursing Program

USC Upstate is one of five South Carolina colleges to share in a \$5 million grant from Prisma Health to provide scholarships to upper-level nursing students. The grant will also help seed an endowment to provide future financial assistance, and fund a recruiter/liaison who will help recruit students for the BSN program and provide information about career opportunities at Prisma Health.

This fall, 24 juniors and seniors pursuing a BSN each received a \$2,500 award. Prisma Health will also offer employment opportunities to interested graduating seniors and provide internships to those who are still students. The gift seeks to increase the pipeline of nurses in South Carolina, which is estimated to experience the fourth-highest nursing shortage by 2030. Read more [here](#).



Global Career Forum Awards First Travel Scholarships

Two students who attended this year's Global Career Forum came away with more than valuable professional information. **Jasmin Elizalde**, above left, a junior, and **Malea Burns**, above right, a senior, were each awarded a \$2,500 travel abroad scholarship to cover program expenses.

"I've always wanted to study abroad, I just didn't know how I was going to get the money or if I was going to be able to have the opportunity," said Elizalde, who is considering France for her travels. "Getting this award really gives me a chance to explore that option."

For Burns, whose appetite for travel was whetted during a summer trip to Spain led by Maria Montesó, senior instructor of Spanish, the award is a chance to keep building her Spanish skills. "I feel like this is the opportunity I really needed to help with my Spanish major," she said.

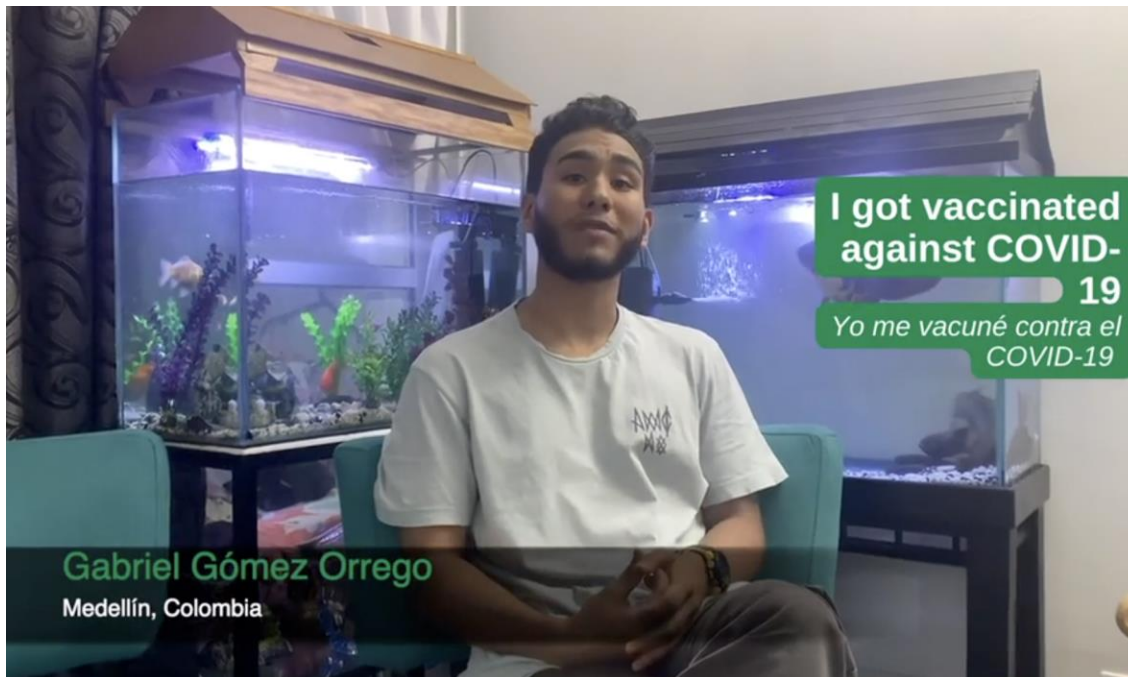
Five other students received grants to cover the cost of a passport. The awards were a new feature this year, made possible by event sponsors whose representatives led roundtable discussions with students and provided information about the companies. Learn more about the event [here](#).



Crime Analysis Center Gets Policing Down to a Science

Law enforcement agencies seeking more effective policing strategies have a valuable new resource. The Upstate Crime Analysis Center, directed by **Michele Covington**, above, executive director of Greenville programs and associate professor of criminal justice, provides students and professionals with state-of-the-art technology and space to train, collaborate, collect and analyze crime data, problem solve, and develop evidence-based crime intervention techniques.

Students enrolled in the criminal justice program at Upstate have the option of doing a crime analysis concentration, while law enforcement professionals seeking to expand their skill base can earn a certificate through online courses. More information can be found [here](#).



Students Give Vaccines a Boost

Ginny Webb, associate professor of biology, is determined to get the vaccine hesitant to the finish line. Over the summer, she hired seniors **Andres Villegas** and **Reem Hassan** to put together videos in Spanish and English that shared people's reasons for why they'd gotten vaccinated. Webb was particularly interested in reaching African American and Hispanic populations, groups that her research showed were less likely to be vaccinated but more likely to leave the option open.

Villegas used previously planned trips to Spain and his native Colombia to gather testimonials from the Spanish speakers he met. He and Hassan, both biology pre-med majors, also took part in a medical internship program over the summer where they interviewed fellow students from many different colleges and backgrounds.

Hassan and Villegas put their completed videos on a website they created, with Spanish subtitles for the English versions and vice versa. The website also contains vaccine facts, and invites visitors to share their own vaccine stories. You can view their work [here](#), and are invited to share the link!

News in Brief

- Aquatics Director **Maya Carter** made a splash this September as a guest speaker at the National Recreation and Park Association's annual conference in Phoenix, Ariz. Carter, who has been with USC Upstate since 2009, spoke on "The Three

'Rs' For Your One-Lifeguard Facility." She helped her audience gain creative insight on lifeguard recruitment, ideas for improving operating hours with low staff, and solutions for lifeguard retention.

- **Tierney Bates**, Ph.D., vice chancellor for student affairs, has been chosen for the American College Personnel Association (ACPA) Foundation's Diamond Honoree Class of 2023. Honorees are selected from nominations based on their sustained service, leadership, and scholarship that enhances the lives of college students and professionals while advancing the fields of student affairs and higher education.
- Have you noticed the new addition to Persimmon Creek in the Arboretum? Earlier this month a [Watergoat](#) was installed that will help prevent trash from flowing downstream and entering a larger section of the watershed. The Watergoat is a flotation line made up of netting, a marine-grade chain, and buoys that traps litter for easy removal, while allowing water and marine life to pass through. The device was funded by the Spartanburg Soil and Water Conservation District in partnership with the **Watershed Ecology Center** at USC Upstate. Take a look next time you're in the Arboretum!

ICYMI

- Watch what participants had to say about the [Global Career Forum](#).
- See highlights from the first Spartanburg [Promise Scholars Luncheon](#).
- Meet USC Upstate student [Victoria Sands](#).

Share Your Stories!

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

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