



A Note From the Chancellor

Welcome to the first edition of our monthly newsletter! Here you will find stories of excellence that highlight the ways USC Upstate is elevating the lives of our students and contributing to the growth of the community and region. As you know, we recently launched a new branding campaign, “Greater Heights,” that captures the aspirational nature of learning at our university and the expectation that together we will lift one another up to greater achievements. I am pleased to share with you below some recent examples that demonstrate this theme, and I invite you to share others throughout the year using the submission information below.

We have an exceptionally talented group of faculty, staff and students at our university, and I am proud of the work they are doing to inspire a thriving and just society.



Campus Highlights

NSF Grant to Support Recruitment and Retention of Low-income Students

The University of South Carolina Upstate has been awarded a six-year, \$750,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) Program¹ grant. USC Upstate will use the funding to establish the Career Readiness to Inspire STEM Proficiency and Retention (CRISPR) program, which will help boost the recruitment, retention, and graduation of STEM students.

The CRISPR program will provide scholarship support for two cohorts of seven scholars (biology and chemistry majors) who will each receive up to \$8,100 each year for up to four years. The first cohort will kick off in Fall 2023, and the second in Fall 2024.

Read more here².

Denny's Awards \$13,500 in Scholarships to Students

Nine USC Upstate students who interned at Denny's corporate headquarters in Spartanburg over the summer each received a \$1,500 scholarship from the restaurant chain. Denny's presented a check to each student on Aug. 30 as part of its Hungry for Education program.

"I am so excited about the Hungry for Education program and grateful for the visionary leadership of Denny's Corp.," said USC Upstate Chancellor Bennie L. Harris. "The opportunity to apply classroom learning to real-world challenges helps to better prepare our students for their careers. These scholarships will help our students achieve their higher education goals."

Read more here³.

¹<https://beta.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/nsf-scholarships-science-technology-engineering-and-mathematics-program-s>

²<https://news.uscupstate.edu/2022/08/usc-upstate-lands-750000-nsf-grant-for-stem-scholarships/>

³<https://news.uscupstate.edu/2022/08/dennys-awards-scholarships-to-nine-usc-upstate-student-interns/>



1 - USC Upstate student William Houston, right, shows off his Hungry for Education scholarship award from Spartanburg-based Denny's Corp. alongside his mother, Rosey Houston, left, and grandmother, Erion Roseman, center.

'Fabric of the Past' Welcomes Educators From Across the U.S.



"Fabric of the Past: Weaving the 20th Century at the Beaumont Mill and Village in South Carolina" welcomed its first cohort of educators for two one-week workshops on teaching community history. The two sessions, held July 10-16 and July 17-23, brought a total of 37 social studies teachers in grades 6-12 to campus.

Professors Paul Grady, Andy Myers, Rebecca Mueller, and Warren Bareiss and university archivist Ann Merryman developed the workshop sessions around the history of Beaumont Mill. Using the mill as a case study, educators learned how they could teach the stories of their own communities when they returned home.

Participants were impressed by the quality and organization of the workshop. "Being from the South, I thought this could be an interesting perspective on the Industrial Revolution and teaching that particular age," said Lisa Woodruff of Frankfort, Kentucky. "But then I came away with this additional appreciation of local history and ways that I can engage my students in researching the history of their families and their community."

Read more about the workshop here⁴ or by visiting the Fabric of the Past website⁵.

New Scholarships Bring Top Spartanburg County Students to Upstate

USC Upstate proudly announced the recipients of its first Spartanburg Promise Scholarships in June. The program will help cover the full cost of tuition over four years for high school graduates in Spartanburg County's seven school districts.

Students who receive the awards must also have earned a South Carolina LIFE Scholarship. LIFE scholars receive \$5,000 their freshman year if they attend an in-state public college or university. The Promise Scholarship will cover the remainder of tuition, which is currently \$12,000 per year, after the LIFE Scholarship and any other grants have been applied.

At least 10 graduates from each of the county's nine high schools will be selected each year, though a short turnaround time for the initial cohort meant some schools were not able to submit 10 recommendations. That enabled other schools to provide additional names. Going forward, USC Upstate hopes to have equal representation from all nine schools.

Read more here⁶.



⁴<https://up.uscupstate.edu/archive/spring2020/a-stitch-in-time/>

⁵<http://publications.uscupstate.edu/neh/>

⁶<https://news.uscupstate.edu/2022/06/usc-upstate-announces-spartanburg-promise-scholarship-program/>



2 - Antonio Lee Tanner '22 accepts USC Upstate's NAACP chapter awards in July.

Upstate's NAACP Chapter Takes Home National Awards

USC Upstate's collegiate chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) garnered two national awards at the civil rights organization's 113th National Convention held July 14-20 in Atlantic City, N.J.

The awards were Economic Development Chapter Area of Innovation and Education College Chapter Area of Innovation. Outgoing chapter president and 2022 USC Upstate graduate **Antonio Lee Tanner** traveled to the convention and accepted the awards on behalf of the chapter.

USC Upstate's NAACP chapter completed a variety of projects this year and earned several university awards, including Outstanding University Program of the Year, Officer of the Year, Advisor of the Year, and the Leon E. Wiles Humanitarian Award.

Read more here⁷.

⁷<https://news.uscupstate.edu/2022/07/usc-upstates-naacp-chapter-garners-national-awards/>

News in Brief

- **Laura Rikard**, assistant professor of theater, led a Theatrical Intimacy Education workshop on campus over the summer for educators and theater professionals from across the U.S. Rikard, co-founder of TIE, has been a leader in developing the tools that help educators and industry professionals around the world incorporate consent practices when staging scenes of intimacy. Read more about her work here⁸.
- **Dr. Derek Fenner**, instructor of art education, served as the course professor for the Muse Machine STEAM Teachers Institute at the Chapman Cultural Center this summer. The one-week program brings together educators from across the state to focus on how to incorporate arts in the classroom across a variety of disciplines. Read more here⁹.
- **Becky Goessel**, senior accounting instructor at the Johnson College of Business and Economics, and JCBE students **Kara Mason** and **Mary Aung** attended the national Beta Alpha Psi meeting in Orlando this summer. Mason and Aung, president and treasurer, respectively, of the local chapter of BAP, took part with Goessel in the Pack Shack Project, during which BAP members packed 67,000 meals for the local community. BAP members also distributed school supplies to children in need. Goessel joined the BAP board as the first ever at-large director of diversity, equity and inclusion.

⁸<https://up.uscupstate.edu/archive/summer2021/intimate-conversations/>

⁹<https://www.chapmanculturalcenter.org/c0/supporting-educators-with-arts-training/>

Spartan Standouts



3 - Emily Martinez-Villalobos with U.S. Rep. Juan Vargas of California

A Capitol Experience

Senior **Emily Martinez-Villalobos** is a strong believer in keeping a cool head and working collaboratively. Those may seem like rare traits in Washington, D.C., these days, but Martinez-Villalobos found they served her well during her summer internship in the office of U.S. Rep. Juan Vargas of California.

Martinez-Villalobos was one of 30 students selected from colleges and universities across the country to participate in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute's internship program. The political science major said working on Capitol Hill was a special experience for her.

"My family immigrated from Mexico, we grew up poor, I'm a first generation college student," she said. "So just being in D.C. was really emotional. I'd never thought that I would be there. Stepping into the halls of Congress, being in the Rotunda, just seeing that and thinking, wow, I'm here."

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In addition to taking part in weekly seminars that brought the interns together to discuss legislative topics and hear from key players in the political system, Martinez-Villalobos conducted research on policy issues and prepared briefings and memos for Vargas' staff. A lot of the work focused on

immigration and foreign affairs, both of which are areas of interest for Martinez-Villalobos. She even wrote her own bill for her final project, focused on allowing immigrants to come to the U.S. to work in specific high-needs sectors of the economy, such as construction.

Far from making her cynical about the political system, her experiences made her appreciate the legislative process more, Martinez-Villalobos said. "I feel more patriotic, because it showed me that the American dream is real," she said. "I am the product of the American dream. And that's what I like to say: I am the product of my parents' dreams."

Net Gains



4 - Frederick Sydow competes for Aruba in the Davis Cup in August.

Senior **Frederick Sydow**, a logistics and supply chain management major, kept a busy schedule over the summer. By day he interned for the Aruba Futura Innovation Lab in his home country. In the evenings, he was on the courts training for the Davis Cup, an international tennis tournament. His three-person team, which included his brother, was the first to compete for Aruba since 2012.

Playing in Group IV of the Americas Zone at the start of August, Sydow's team beat Nicaragua, Cuba, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Trinidad and Tobago to reach the finals of the group stage. Though they fell short of their goal to advance to Group III, Sydow says the week was an incredible experience.

"I am glad I could partake in such a prestigious event that only few can be part of," he said. "I am proud to have represented Aruba and to have obtained great results, especially being with and competing alongside my brother Patrick."

Spartans Care

A member of our Spartan community needs our help. **Kathy Childress**, a program assistant in the office of Institutional Effectiveness and Compliance, is hoping to purchase a wheelchair-accessible van for her son, Tony, a 35-year-old Air Force veteran who was diagnosed in 2017 with primary progressive multiple sclerosis. Because of his condition, Tony is now confined to a wheelchair, and transporting him to multiple neurology and physical therapy appointments is challenging for Kathy. A properly equipped van

would also make it possible for Kathy to take Tony on outings, particularly to the movies, which he loves. Please consider donating what you can here¹⁰.

Events

- Upstate Gallery at the Chapman Cultural Center presents Yehimi Cambron¹¹: "Now We Thrive." Now through Oct. 21. 200 E. St. John St., Spartanburg
- Constitution Day with guest speaker Barry Barnette, 7th circuit solicitor. 6 p.m. Sept. 15, CASB 117/Lobby
- Family Weekend¹², featuring Morgan Square Madness. Oct. 6-8
- Johnson Innovation Speaker Series with Lisa Price¹³, founder of Carol's Daughter. 12:10 p.m. Nov. 10, Room 150 (BMW Classroom), Johnson College of Business and Economics

Find more campus events here¹⁴. Athletics events can also be found at upstatespartans.com¹⁵.

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- Read the Chancellor's Report here¹⁶.
- View photos from Convocation¹⁷.
- See video from MoveUP Day¹⁸.

Share Your Stories!

Submit story ideas here¹⁹, or contact Elizabeth Anderson in the Marketing and Communications office at eanders2@uscupstate.edu²⁰.

¹⁰<https://www.gofundme.com/f/air-force-of-veteran-needs-medical-transport>

¹¹<https://www.yehimicambron.com/>

¹²<https://www.uscupstate.edu/campus-events/FamilyWeekend/>

¹³<https://www.uscupstate.edu/academics/george-dean-johnson-jr.-college-of-business-and-economics/events/johnson-innovation-lisa-price/>

¹⁴<https://events.uscupstate.edu/calendar/events.php>

¹⁵<https://upstatespartans.com/index.aspx>

¹⁶<https://www.uscupstate.edu/about-the-university/administration/chancellor/chancellors-report/>

¹⁷<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjA44dy>

¹⁸<https://youtu.be/XMoz3FvhJfc>

¹⁹<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Ynu6jlaexkabGwZQSmHHLUygVxuyQidHsLLu5ez9DkhUNEJDS0FDQkQ1N0pXNzVCT01HWEc0NkZHNS4u>

²⁰<mailto:eanders2@uscupstate.edu>