



As I look around campus this month, I see signs of spring everywhere, from flowers blossoming along the walkways to trees budding in the arboretum (and yes, the telltale yellow of pollen coating the sidewalks!) It's a reminder that we've made it through another winter, and I can already feel our graduates' excitement as commencement, the culmination of their academic journey, draws closer. Many of you also have returned from spring break adventures where you visited new places and filled your cup with new experiences. Whether you traveled far or remained close to home, I hope you have returned to campus refreshed and invigorated.



This month we celebrate women's history, and I am pleased to highlight below the story of Dr. Candace Lamb, '10, whose experiences as a first-generation student have informed her career helping other first-gen students succeed in college. When we speak of reaching greater heights, there are three important elements supporting that message: mentorship made personal, education made relevant, and generational change made possible. Candace's story is a perfect illustration of how all those things came together for her at USC Upstate to lead her to where she is today. I'm sure many of you have former students with outcomes similar to Candace's, and I hope you'll continue to share their stories using the link at the bottom of this newsletter.



Graphic Design Students Shine at ADDYs

USC Upstate graphic design students set a program record at the American Advertising Federation Greenville Chapter awards ceremony on March 4, taking home 13 ADDY awards. The total broke the previous record of 11 set just last year.

Braxton Stroud took home two golds, **Jillian Canady** received one gold, and **Petra Banzhof** and **William Mathis** each received one gold and one silver. **Daniel Bell** was awarded one gold and two silver, and alum **Jarred Bradley '22**, **Amina Fields**, and **Abagale Rikert** each took home a silver.

The graphic design program is led by **Bridget Kirkland** and **Matthew Donaldson**, associate professors of graphic design and faculty advisors for Studio Upstate, USC Upstate's student-run graphic design agency. Read more [here](#).



Er(UP)t Program Receives Additional Funding

Er(UP)t, the summer research program for Upstate students interested in life sciences careers, has received a \$50,000 grant from Power:Ed. The funding will enable two additional faculty members and four additional students to take part in the program. Learn more about Er(UP)t [here](#).



Students Experience 'Pura Vida' Over Spring Break

A spring break trip to Costa Rica gave seven students the opportunity to grow their career readiness skills while making new friends and learning more about themselves. Led by **Hannah Terpack**, director of Career Management, the group packed in visits to coffee plantations, hikes through some of the most biodiverse areas in the world, and a trip to mountaintop wind turbines that power the country's energy, among other activities. Along the way, they embraced the spirit of "pura vida" (literally "pure life") associated with Costa Rica.

Terpack said most of the students didn't know each other before the trip, so in the weeks leading up to their departure, she brought everyone together for team building exercises with John Montemayor in [TRIO](#). Just like in any work setting, students got to know each other's personalities, likes and dislikes, and how to negotiate their different communication styles.

By the end of the trip, the group had formed a tight bond. **Brandon Mercado**, a senior biology major, said a highlight for him was getting to know peers in different majors who he never would have met otherwise. He also enjoyed the people they met along the way, and finding ways to connect even with a language barrier.

Mercado's friend **Trinity Roberts**, also a senior biology major, said the trip even made her rethink her life. "I know now that travel is going to be a huge priority of mine, so making sure that my career aligns with that is important," she said.

Terpack had the students contribute their reflections in a journal she kept during the trip, and the group plans to self-publish a book about their experiences.



Softball Coach Honored with Field Dedication

Longtime USC Upstate softball coach and alum **Chris Hawkins** was honored on March 11 with the dedication of the softball field in his name. Hawkins is the winningest coach in the history of the university's softball program and among the winningest active coaches in NCAA Division I. He graduated in 1989 with a degree in physical education and played on Upstate's first varsity baseball team in 1986.

Hawkins has gone on to amass an impressive record as head coach, including the program's first-ever ASUN Tournament Championship in 2013 and a Top 25 national ranking, five consecutive NCAA Division I Tournament appearances (2013-17), and more than 900 career victories, the most of any coach in Spartan Athletics history. [Learn more](#)

about Hawkins [here](#). Photos from the field dedication and alumni softball game can be seen [here](#).



'Justice for All' Exhibit Coming to Campus

"[Justice for All](#)," a traveling exhibition from the Center for Civil Rights History and Research at USC, will be on display at the Library April 1-June 30. The exhibition uses oral history recordings, news footage, photographs, postcards, newspapers and letters to highlight overlooked chapters in the history of the movement.

Additional programming will complement the exhibit, including presentations on the Chicano/a and American Indian Movements; race and identity; the Dizzy Gillespie for President movement; and Isaac Woodward, the decorated African American World War II veteran who was blinded in a racist attack.

Details about days and times for events surrounding the exhibition will be sent out to campus.



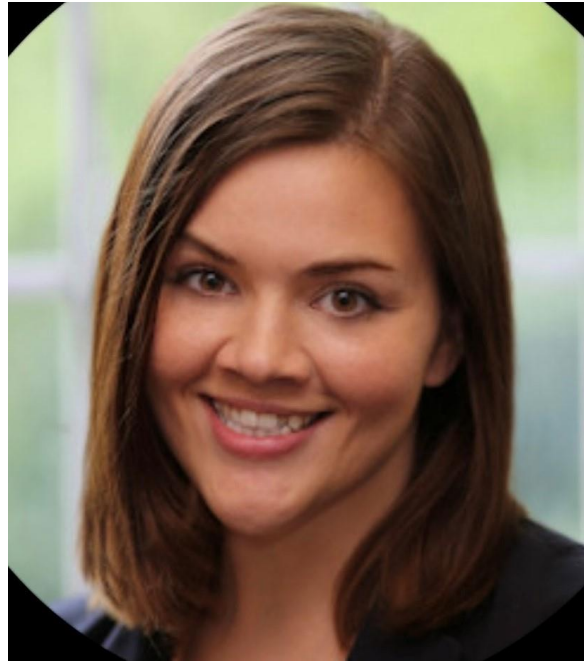
Chancellor Harris Honored by Urban League of the Upstate

Chancellor Bennie L. Harris received the Xanthene S. Norris Education Award at the Urban League of the Upstate's Whitney M. Young, Jr. awards gala on Feb. 23. The ceremony honored leaders who have contributed to educating and empowering Black and underserved individuals in the region. Read more [here](#).

Alums Making a Difference: Candace Lamb, '10

Candace Lamb, '10, wasn't sure what she wanted to do with her life when she arrived at USC Upstate at 24. A transfer student from Greenville Tech who was also the first in her family to attend high school and college, all she knew was that she wanted a career helping people.

The faculty, staff and students she met at USC Upstate gave shape to that path. Lamb recently was named the director of the Tandon Career Hub at NYU's School of Engineering. Prior to that, she was hired to develop a career academy at the CUNY School of Public Health, where she worked with first-generation students, many of them from immigrant families.



Lamb says the CUNY program was created in response to surveys of graduates who felt they lacked workplace soft skills, something she had also struggled with as a first-generation student. In her first year directing the program, Lamb organized twice-monthly workshops covering topics such as imposter syndrome and professional communication. She also brought in experts from public health fields to do master classes on the topics they were discussing. The program was so successful it not only won a CUNY-wide career services award, it also secured a second grant that allowed for the creation of a leadership track.

In her new role at NYU, Lamb will be managing the career services team for engineering and STEM students. The position aligned well with her desire to affect change in career services on a larger scale. "A big reason I was interested in working here is that they were very upfront about their commitment to diversity and inclusion and working with underrepresented students," she says.

Lamb credits the people she met at USC Upstate with showing her possibilities. Her classes in nonprofit administration, a program developed by the late professor **Ron Romine**, provided hands-on career experience. And **Lisa Johnson**, director of the Center for Women's and Gender Studies, gave her the skills and confidence to pursue first her master's degree and then a doctorate.

Now, Lamb says, "I kind of look for a Lisa wherever I go. Or I try to be that person for other people."



Upstate Shows Heart on Carolina Day

This year's Carolina Day fell on Feb. 14, and students, faculty, staff and alumni who traveled to Columbia shared their love for USC Upstate. The USC Upstate contingent included representatives from all six colleges, and throughout the day they spoke with lawmakers about their experiences at Upstate and the impact the university is having. Two days later, Chancellor Harris joined other USC campus leaders at the Senate Finance Committee meeting, where a representative from the USC system shared the funding priorities for all the campuses.

See photos from the day [here](#).

Magazine now available

The fall/winter issue of Up Magazine is now available! You can find hard copies in the University Marketing and Communications suite on the second floor of the Administration Building, or read it online [here](#).



UPCOMING

- **Jessica Scott-Felder: What's Left Undone: Paper Pushing Vol. 3**, opening reception 5-8 p.m. Thursday, March 16, artist talk 5:30 p.m. On view March 16-April 29, USC Upstate Gallery, Chapman Cultural Center, 200 E. St. John St., Spartanburg.
- **Phil Garrett: Sojourn**, on view March 23-April 14, Curtis Harley Art Gallery, main floor Humanities and Performing Arts Center. Reception and artist talk 4-6 p.m. April 13.
- **USC Upstate Student Design Competition**, 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 28, Studio Upstate, 172 E. Main St., Spartanburg. Reception 5:30-6:30 p.m. Awards ceremony 6 p.m.
- **The SpongeBob Musical**, 7:30 p.m. March 30, 31 and April 1, 3 p.m. April 2, Main Stage Theatre, Humanities and Performing Arts Center. Buy tickets [here](#).
- **USC Upstate Jazz Combo: Nothing but the Blues**, 7:30 p.m. April 11, Humanities and Performing Arts Center Theatre. Featuring the music of Ray Charles, John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Horace Silver, The Beatles, and even a little Lynyrd Skynyrd. Students are free, faculty/staff and general admission tickets available for purchase [here](#).
- **USC Upstate Vocal Ensemble: Sing! Sing! Sing!**, 7:30 p.m. April 14, Humanities and Performing Arts Center Theatre. Featuring swings, songs and favorite hits! Students are free, faculty/staff and general admission tickets available for purchase [here](#).

- **Commercial Music Combo: British Invasion**, 7:30 p.m. April 20, Humanities and Performing Arts Center Theatre. Featuring some of England's greatest music from yesterday and today. Students are free, faculty/staff and general admission tickets available for purchase [here](#).
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- Homecoming wrap-up. [VIDEO](#)
 - Homecoming Step Competition. [PHOTOS](#)
 - Founders Day. [PHOTOS](#)
 - Diversity Summit. [PHOTOS](#)
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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.

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