

International Programs

NEWSLETTER



Vol. 3 • No. 1

The Official Newsletter of the USCB International Programs Committee

SPRING 2023

SPRING 2023 International Week Mini-Celebration

USCB INTERNATIONAL
MINI-CELEBRATION! WEEK
APRIL 5-5PM-6PM | IN FRONT OF CAMPUS CENTER
BLUFFTON CAMPUS

SOCCER GAME | INTERNATIONAL STREET EATS

"WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN" INTERACTIVE MAP

STUDY ABROAD INFO + Q&A | STUDY ABROAD SLIDESHOW

For more information, contact Volkan Sevim: vsevim@uscb.edu

On April 5th, USCB held an International Week Mini-Celebration! One of the activities offered was a [Soccer Game](#) where students, faculty, and staff competed against each other. There were international foods including Chicken Taquitos, Beef Taquitos, and California Rolls! Cold water bottles were on hand so that our soccer players stayed hydrated. A study abroad information table was set up for students to ask questions about the programs offered at USCB and learn about where our students have journeyed to in the past. There was an interactive map where you could see where people have travelled in the past (via a blue pushpin) and where they would like to visit (via a red pushpin). Most



of the guests congregated in this area and had some interesting global conversations. [See Pictures Here](#). Participants of the soccer game included faculty and staff members Dr. Messick, Mrs. Weir, Dr. Catma, and Dr. Sevim, as well as students Shourish Kothawale, Rachel Valvo, Julia van Gelder, and Lex Theuns.

IPC & HAS Fundraiser for Turkey/Syria Earthquake Victims - Bake Sale for a Cause



The International Programs Committee, Honors Student Association, Gamma Beta Phi, and Student Life all joined together to help those that were affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria in February. We appreciate all our USCB Students, Staff, and Faculty who [donated their baked goods that were sold for donations](#) to UNICEF. 100% of the donations were given to UNICEF and the turnout was amazing from both the amount of baked goods received as well as the amount of money (over \$1,000) donated to this cause. Special thanks to [Sierra Watkins](#), [Melfry Gonzalez](#), and [Andrea Santibañez](#).

Offering Free Study Abroad at Poznan University of Medical Sciences (Poland)



PUMS | POZNAŃ UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

USCB and Poznan University of Medical Sciences have collaborated to offer a Free Study

Abroad opportunity in Poland! The only costs for participants will include flight and incidental costs while abroad. Our students will study in Poland from July 22-July 28th, and the students and faculty will be able to reside in the PUMS dorms while attending! We cannot wait to hear the stories from our attending students and faculty. [Medical School Link](#)

USCB Hosts Symposium "Breathing Democracy into Spaces: 1st South Carolina Volunteers of African Descent"



New historical research, community advocacy and art commemorating the contributions of African American soldiers in the Civil War came to life in "Breathing Democracy into Spaces: 1st South Carolina Volunteers of African Descent." The symposium on April 8 at USCB's Center for the Arts in Beaufort was the culmination of a year-long grant project centered at the Institute for the Study of the Reconstruction Era (ISRE). [Event Link](#)

[Students Abroad Spring 2023](#)

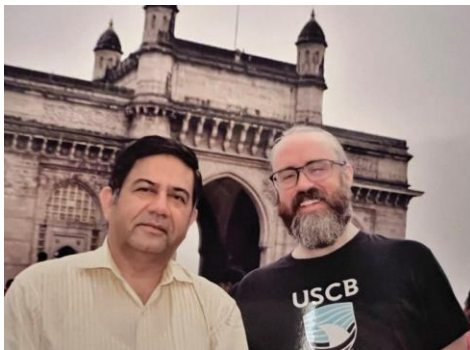
Max Rodriguez & Cameron Poliquin
- HZ University (Netherlands)

Rachelle Martz
- The American College of Greece (Greece)

[Students Abroad Summer 2023](#)

Chris Lamb
- Sogang University (South Korea)
Milla Wojciechowski, Ashley Duggan, Darniece Calistro, Isabel Cannon, Kari Hill, Logan Stewart, Tameika Lynard
- Poznan University of Medical Sciences (Poland)

USCB Recruits Indian Computational Science Students



USCB's Computer Science and Mathematics Department Chair Dr. Brian Canada visited several potential partner universities in India to recruit computational science students for USCB's degree completion program. Through memoranda of understanding with international universities, USCB cultivates and strengthens opportunities for students to begin their undergraduate education in their home countries and then transfer to USCB to complete their degrees. [Link](#)

"I am here in India to join our international partnerships consultant, Ani Agnihotri, for visits to several Indian universities that are potentially interested in forging new relationships with USCB as well as schools with whom we have existing partnerships, such as the Vidyalandkar School of Information Technology [in Mumbai]," Dr. Canada wrote in an email while in India.

USCB Wins Best Buddies International College Chapter of the Year



USCB's Best Buddies student organization has been recognized by Best Buddies International as the College Chapter of the Year. [Link](#)

USCB student Francie Gaskin was the immediate past President of the university's Best Buddies chapter, which has more than 60 members including students and special needs individuals in the community. They host events on and off campus at least twice a month, volunteer in the

community, and take part in many campus activities. You may have seen them this year roasting smores around the fire pit, tie-dyeing t-shirts, cheering on Sand Shark sports teams at games, and handing out good luck notes for finals.

FALL 2022

USCB'S FALL 2022 INTERNATIONAL WEEK



USCB celebrated its international students, faculty, and programs in the week of November 14-18, 2022. The week-long events were composed of both [in-person and virtual activities](#) including:

Monday, November 14th – Kickoff!



Our week started with a Welcome from Chancellor AI M. Panu. [This year's kick-off event](#) was a student-based event, which included presentations from many USCB students that have had the opportunity to study abroad. Those students included: Elizabeth Erickson, Jules Duterte, Jarrett Kizer, Kaylee Aiken, Sherry Rodriguez, and Jessica Garcia Zena. Speeches from faculty members Dr. Brian Canada, Dr. Ed D'Antonio ([Event Link](#)), and Dr. Jana Wheeler also discussed the importance and value of international learning. The event was offered in both an online and in-person format, and those attending in-person had the opportunity to try various international foods offered at the event!

Tuesday, November 15th – Virtual Competition

The campus community competed against one another in a virtual International Trivia game on Kahoot. The top 5 winners received [prizes](#) that came from overseas in Paris! The 20-question quiz included questions such as:

- Which Foreign Language is NOT taught at USCB?
 - French
 - German
 - Spanish
 - Italian
- What is the Official Language of the Democratic Republic of the Congo?
 - Spanish
 - French
 - English
 - German
- True or False: The Currency Used in Taiwan is the New Taiwan Dollar
- What Country celebrates Holi?
 - Thailand
 - Canada
 - India
 - Brazil
- What Country Does Not Touch the Pacific Ocean?
 - United States
 - Japan
 - Philippines
 - Guinea

Answers to Trivia Questions:

- Italian
- French
- True
- India
- Guinea

Wednesday, November 16th – International Cooking Demonstration



Dr. Serkan Catma



Dr. Volkan Sevim

Two Professors provided an International Cooking Demonstration virtually to the entire community! The introduction was by Dr. Volkan Sevim and the cooking demonstration was by Dr. Serkan Catma. The dish was a vegetarian Turkish dish which was brought to



the Kickoff event on Monday for everyone to try!

Thursday, November 17th – International Foods



International delights were enjoyed on campus when two food trucks offered the community their tasty eats. We had a Polish Food Truck (Krystyna's Authentic Polish Food) as well as a Jamaican Food Truck (Diced Pineapple), and the long lines showed just how delicious the food was! Students, faculty and staff all waited in line to try these delicious eats!

Friday, November 18th – Sharing Colors, Moving Boundaries



We ended the week with a special and colorful celebration ([Event Link](#)). Students, faculty, and staff all joined together in a color-throwing party on campus! Everyone was full of colors and smiles! International music played at the event to keep the party going! [Event Link](#)

USCB Library during Fall 2022 International Week



The USCB Library also included international offerings to the community by displaying international books to the public. Thank you to the USCB Library for getting into the International Week Spirit! [Link](#).

USCB Study Abroad Numbers

At USCB, we highlight the importance of an internationally focused education. USCB is proud to announce that we are bucking the trend of study abroad participants and international students. In 2019-2020, the number of study

Bucking the Trend at USCB

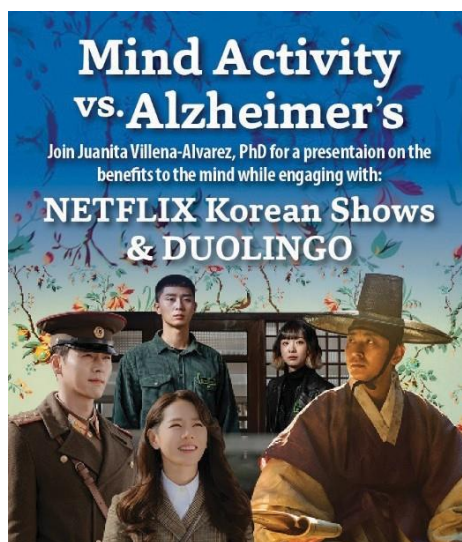
• Study Abroad Open Doors Data ([Link](#))

STUDY ABROAD PARTICIPATION BY STATE			
Academic Year 2019-2020*			
STATE	STUDY ABROAD PARTICIPATION	TOTAL FALL ENROLLMENT IN DEGREE GRANTING INSTITUTIONS	PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD
TOM	162,549	19,622,106	0.83%

USCB Data
• 2019-2020 = 1.27% of USCB student population

abroad students at USCB was 53% higher than the national average. The USCB data on international students attending the university has also continuously increased from the national average post-Covid. This Fulbright Conference presentation October 2022 in Bethesda, MD highlighted USCB's International Student and Study Abroad statistics. [Link](#).

International-themed community presentation



On September 28th, Dr. Alvarez presented the convergence of art enjoyment and academics through engaging in the Korean Wave that can sharpen the mind. With the boost in Korean entertainment found on United States media platforms (i.e., Netflix, Disney Plus), learning Korean culture and entertainment can also activate different areas of the mind by engaging with foreign language materials. Duolingo, a free language-learning app, can increase mind activity, while also having fun learning a new language. With the impacts that Korean culture and economy have, the materials pertained to how we can use entertainment as a way to learn about a global culture, engage with their language, and expand the capabilities of our minds. [Flyer Link](#)

Transatlantic Mobility Program (TMP) - French Embassy Grant



In May 2022, 8 students studied in France after

USCB was one of six universities selected for the 2021-2022 Transatlantic Mobility Program grant. The students (Kaylee Aiken, Kai Bangs, Kari Dennis, Jessica Garcia Zena, Jules Duterte, Jarrett Kizer, Madelyn Morzenti, and Sherry Rodriguez) and Dr. Alvarez had the life-changing experience of being able to travel across the Atlantic to study in Paris. For 4 weeks, the group expanded their knowledge of Parisian culture both inside the classroom and by engaging with the environment. USCB is so grateful to the French Embassy of the United States for providing these students with the opportunity for this life-changing experience. [Link](#)

Three of those students who attended the Maymester in Paris (Kai Bangs, Jules Duterte, and Kaylee Aiken) are members of the Beaufort College Honors program. Not only were they able to receive funds from the Transatlantic Mobility Program to aid in their travels, but they also received additional funds from the Honors Office for their trip. We are so grateful to have had 3 members of the honors college join in on the French experience. [Link](#)

When the students were in the classroom, they were learning about how immigration to France has shaped the country's culture, politics, and economy in a course called "French Francophone Pluralities". Outside of the classroom, the students saw famous sites (who could go to Paris and not visit the Eiffel Tower!?) as well as local hidden gems that are popular with locals but not with most tourists. The group was also able to explore outside of Paris and visited other French cities as well as a few other European cities (i.e., London, Dublin, etc.). When the student's returned back to the States, their beaming smiles could speak a thousand words about how amazing their study abroad experience was. [Link](#)



SPRING 2022

Exchange Student from Netherlands



In May of 2022, we said Tot ziens (good-bye) to one of our International Students, **Cleo De Ridder**. Cleo was an exchange student from HZ University, a university in the Netherlands that USCB partners with each year so students from both universities can have an opportunity to experience an international education for a semester. We are so thankful to have had Cleo at USCB as a Sand Shark, and we are grateful to have her as a part of our Sand Shark family. [Link](#)

Global Classroom



In Spring 2022, **Dr. Choinowski** invited Dr. Alicia Kalinowska, the Associate Dean and a Neurologist from Poznan University of Medical Sciences (Poland), to be a special guest in some of her classes. Dr. Kalinowska gave a virtual presenta-

tion about her research and findings concerning autoimmune diseases. The focus of her discussion was the immunopathology of Multiple Sclerosis. Thank you so much to Dr. Kalinowska for taking the time to speak to our students, and thank you so much to Dr. Choinowski for always trying to expand the knowledge of our students beyond the textbook! [Link](#)

USCB Spring International Appreciation Week!



The USCB community engaged in two International-focused events for Spring 2022 International Appreciation Week. On Monday, March 15th, we held a "Backpacking Around the World" event in which students were able to learn about various countries while walking around the campus. On Tuesday, March 16, we held a "Stories from Abroad" virtual event where the community could listen to presentations from USCB students, faculty, and staff who have had life-changing opportunities to study abroad. Thank you to everyone who attended these events as well as volunteered to make the events possible for the community! [Link](#)

FALL 2021

Global Classroom

USCB's **Dr. Bud Sanders** and Dr. Lassi Paunonen brought Finland's mathematical perspectives into USCB classes and community with a live presentation and conversation on Dec. 2, 2021. [Link](#) Thank you so much to Dr. Lassi Paunonen for bringing an international perspective to mathematics to our students, and a special thank you to Dr. Bud Sanders for bringing an international educational opportunity to our students.



More information about Dr. Lassi Paunonen, Associate Professor in Mathematics at Tampere University, Finland

- [YouTube Channel \(Teaching and Research\)](#)
- [Personal Website](#)
- [Research Group Website](#)
- [Instagram: paunonen_math](#)

Vlad Rusu (from Romania), HZ (in Netherlands) and USCB Student Visits the BIG Apple - New York City!



In December 2021, **Vlad Rusu**, an international Sand Shark from HZ University in the Netherlands, explored one of the biggest hubs in the United States, New York City! A much different area than the Lowcountry, he was able to visit and experience one of the most influential cities in the United States. We love seeing our students expand their horizons and learn about life in other areas! [Link](#)

Fulbright presentation



On October 22, 2021, **Dr. Villena-Alvarez** presented at the Fulbright International Conference held virtually ([Link](#)). She discussed the



impact that Fulbright has on the credentials and merit for faculty, staff, and a university as a whole. She highlighted how it is the duty of Fulbright recipients to share their access with others in order to increase international education to the pillars of a university community: students, faculty, and staff. You can watch her presentation at this [Link](#) starting at the timeframe 59:04.

International Week Fall 2021

From November 15th–19th, 2021, USCB hosted its Fall 2021 International Week full of in-person and virtual events for the entire community to engage in. Students, faculty, and staff all gathered to enjoy the cultural events planned for the community!



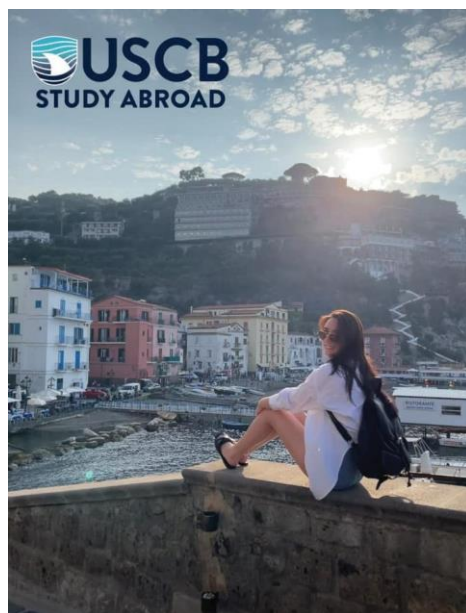
(Image represents flags of countries of USCB International students)

Monday Opening:

On Monday, November 15th, we started our Kick-off event with a welcome from Chancellor **Al M. Panu**. We were so grateful to have 2 guest speakers discuss their experiences abroad to both an in-person and a virtual audience. **Dr. Mac James** presented his Fulbright-Hays to Mexico experience. **Elizabeth Erickson**, a History major at USCB, presented to the community her experience studying abroad in Italy ([Link](#)). Thank you to everyone who presented at the Kick-off event for highlighting how life-changing studying abroad is. [Event Link](#)



Dr. Mac James presentation– Fulbright-Hays to Mexico



Elizabeth Erickson, History major studying abroad in Italy

Tuesday Trivia:

On Tuesday, November 16th, members of the USCB community competed against one another to show their international knowledge. More than 100 people competed to win prizes ([Link](#)). Congratulations to our winners: students **Tyler Montford**, **Sydney Soda**, and **Tabitha McLeod** and employees **Geni Flowers** and **Debbie Gray**. The prizes were swag bags with goodies courtesy of Student Life! Thank you, **Joshua Lockhart**! [Event Link](#)

Wednesday International Cooking Show:



We had a special treat for the USCB community on Wednesday, November 17th. Our very own **Dr. Serkan Catma**, associate Professor of Economics, provided a virtual demonstration of a Turkish dish! He wowed the audience with his culinary skills, and we thank him for showing the community how to cook a delicious recipe! [Event Link](#)

Dr. Brian Canada

In keeping with USCB's International Week celebrations, **Dr. Brian Canada** moderated an

international conference session on Globally Digitalized Economy. [Link](#)



Thursday Food Truck:



Friday Closing Events:



We closed our Fall 2021 International Week with an International Music and Dance Party! **Lauren Presnar** led the community in a dance routine that had everyone smiling and moving ([Link!](#))! What a fun and fin-tastic way to close our [International Week!](#)



USCB at Latin Music Festival in Hilton Head Island



In October 2021, members of the community attended the Latin Music Festival! The booth offered information to the public about USCB's International programs and Spanish program. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time at the event! [Event Link](#)

USCB Fulbright Scholar Presentation



Theodora (Tedi) Light, USCB's first student Fulbright recipient, was featured in a virtual conference, "Reclaiming Narratives: Southern History in Technicolor." The conference took place on September, 30th, and we are so proud to see a Sand Shark alumni continue to shine in her profession. [Link](#)

French Embassy Grant Award

In Fall 2021, USCB was one of six universities to receive the Transatlantic Mobility Program grant from the French Embassy. This grant allowed to strengthen international ties between USCB and the Université de Bordeaux Montaigne (UBM). We are so thankful to have received this grant, and we are very excited about the opportunities and experiences that this relationship will provide! [Link](#)



Global Classroom

The IPC International Lecture Series & Psychology Club Present:

What's the future of Science?

Dr. Sarah J. Charles
A guest lecture on Open Science Practices

When: Wednesday, September 29th at 3:30PM

Every area of science, from biology to psychology, is making strides in addressing the historical problems of the sciences through Open Science Practices. These are new approaches that are increasingly embraced and required by schools, journals, and grant agencies. Dr. Charles, a psychobiologist from England, provides a free introduction to these important skills that will give any young scientist an advantage in their early academic careers.

On September 29th, **Dr. Kyle Messick** had a guest speaker present about the importance of Open Science practices for any students desiring a career in the science-based professions. The guest speaker, psychobiologist Dr. Charles from England, provided an overview of Open Science practices and the benefits it has on the science community and researchers. [Link](#)

Fulbright-Hays Poland

Dr. Juanita Babet Villena-Alvarez and USCB co-hosted the "Fulbright-Hays Poland: Three Years of Academic Contributions" virtual event in July 2021. The event commemorated the 75th Anniversary of Fulbright. Dr. Villena-Alvarez spoke on the internationalization highlights at USCB as well as the benefits that Fulbright has provided various members of the USCB community. [Link](#)



Invite you to an event commemorating the

75th Anniversary of Fulbright FULBRIGHT-HAYS POLAND: Three Years of Academic Contributions

Hosted by Justyna Janiszewska (Fulbright Poland) and Juanita Babet Villena-Alvarez (USCB)
July 21, 2021
12:00 to 2:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

INVITED SPEAKERS ARE

Participant Name	School
Andrews, Josephine	University of California, Davis
Bailey, Beatrice	Clemson University
Barrera, Delina	Texas Southmost College
Beggan, Dominic	Lone Star College – Montgomery
Choy, Gregory	University of California, Berkeley
Collopy, Erin	Texas Tech University
Drygalska, Ewa	Fulbright Poland
Ellefson, Cheri	Ball State University
Higdon, Angela	Owensboro Community and Technical College
Larson, Holly	Seminole State College
Lawrence, Maria	Rhode Island College
MacAvery Kane, Eileen	Rockland Community College
Meledge-Ade, Victor	Metropolitan Community College
Panser, Laurel	Riverland Community College
Schafer, Mary	Suffolk County Community College
Schmid, Carol	Guilford Technical Community College