



Here at USCB, we are fully aware of the fact that our students' lives and careers cannot be isolated from the world. USCB's cultural diversity is expanding rapidly as an increasing number of students and faculty choose to matriculate or teach at our three campuses.

As part of its mission, USCB is fully committed to preparing graduates to contribute locally, nationally and internationally to the culture and economy of their location. To this end, the International Programs Committee (IPC) serves USCB's goal of enhancing diversity and inclusivity of its community by assisting its international students, emphasizing understanding of the world at large, and preparing its students for global citizenship. The committee is divided into three sub-committees: Campus Internationalization, Fulbright and Other International Opportunities, and Study Abroad.

## International Programs Committee News

**In October 2018**, flags representing the home countries of all 26 international USCB students were placed on display in the dining hall on the Bluffton Campus.

Nicole Maddox was elected as the Region VII South Carolina State Representative of NAFSA, the Association of International Educators, which was founded in 1948 as the National Association of Foreign Student Advisers. NAFSA is the world's largest nonprofit association dedicated to international education and exchange. Her term will end in November 2021.

**On November 22**, USCB alumni Pam Nilsen's family and Dr. Lynn McGee hosted international students at their homes on Thanksgiving Day.



**This fall**, Anya L. Jones became the first USCB undergraduate student to apply for the prestigious Critical Language Scholarship. The CLS program is an intensive overseas language and cultural-immersion program for American students enrolled at U.S. colleges and universities.



**On February 1, 2019**, USCB hosted Chinese New Year dinner for students. The evening included dinner, raffles and presentations by Drs. Chenjie Zhang and Beda Alvarez on the Chinese Diaspora.

**In February**, Dr. Kimberly Cavanagh was honored with a 2019-2020 Fulbright Award. Dr. Cavanagh was selected to receive a Fulbright Scholar Research Award to Jordan to continue building upon the research she conducted years earlier in the desert kingdom. She was selected based on the merits of the research project she pro-posed: "Remapping Aqaba: Exploring the Social and Economic Development of Aqaba, Jordan." Her new research will be supported by her previous work delving into planned large-scale urban tourism

*Continued on page 3*

## Fulbright Fridays!

**On Friday, September 7th 2018**, Dr. Manuel “Bud” Sanders Gave a Talk on His Research and Teaching Experiences in 2017-2018 Academic Year as a Fulbright Scholar in Finland. Dr. Manuel “Bud” Sanders, Professor of Mathematics and Chair of USCB’s Department of Mathematics, spent a full year in Finland teaching and conducting research at Tampere University of Technology in Tampere, Finland. His research project titled “Mathematical Competencies in STEM: Preparing the Researchers of Tomorrow” included the mathematical preparation of undergraduate and graduate students involved in a variety of technologically-oriented career preparation fields such as “Light-driven Technologies” and “Nano-technology.”

**On September 21, 2018**, Dr. Babet Villena-Alvarez gave a talk on her 2018 Fulbright-Hays Seminar in Poland. Dr. Villena-Alvarez is the Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. She recently completed a four-week seminar in Poland for post-secondary educators. Those selected for the program explored the relationship between the U.S. and Poland, focusing on politics, national security, culture and economics. They visited historical sites and engaged with academic scholars in Warsaw, Cracow, Wroclaw and Gdansk.

**On October 12, 2018**, Dr. Cindy Lahar gave a talk on her research experiences as a Fulbright Scholar in Cambodia. Dr. Lahar is an Associate Professor of Psychology in the Department of Social Sciences. She described her experiences as a Fulbright Scholar in Cambodia in 2004 and as a Fulbright Senior Specialist in Cambodia in 2006. She also summarized some long-term research collaborations that resulted from the Fulbright awards. Her talk was followed by a brief session discussing Fulbright opportunities for faculty, staff and students.

## Other Campus Activities

**On March 20, 2019**, The Campus Internationalization Subcommittee hosted an international fair from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Bluffton Campus. Students were provided with information on various study-abroad opportunities. The public was invited.

**In January 2019**, Campus Internationalization Subcommittee members Dr. Alyssa Mayer and Ms. Nicole Maddox conducted an International Student Survey. Fifteen of USCB’s 26 international

students participated in the survey, which was designed to assess the students’ satisfaction with academics as well as a variety of services on campus, including housing and dining. More than 80 percent of the students indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied with their experiences at USCB.



## Stories from Abroad Event Series

**On August 24, 2018**, the USCB faculty shared educational experiences in Stories from Abroad 1. The first Stories from Abroad event began with Dr. Al Panu, USCB’s chancellor, delivering his own personal stories from abroad. Drs. Alyssa Mayer and Babet Villena-Alvarez also shared their experiences abroad. More than 40 participants joined the event, including eight USCB international students and 10 foreign-born USCB faculty. The informal meet-and-greet event included food, study-abroad information desks and fun stories.



**On September 28, 2018**, USCB students shared educational experiences in Stories from Abroad 2. USCB students Tessa Neeley, Jennifer Shaw and Alex Gayon shared their educational experiences in France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.



*USCB students Kelly Cruikshank, Matthew Bruckner, Karyn Wallach and Lindsey Head, along with their professors, Dr. Chesanny Butler, Dr. Lynne Hutchinson, Dr. Najmah Thomas, shared stories about their study-abroad trip to Ghana in the summer of 2018.*

**On February 15,** USCB staff shared educational experiences in Stories from Abroad 3. Members of the USCB staff, Rachel Beach, Candace Brasseur, Stacey Holmes, Nicole Maddox and Carly Morman, told of their educational experiences and other adventures in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland and Mexico.



development in the Red Sea port city of Aqaba. Her findings will serve to develop a “longitudinal ethnographic portrait of the social and economic realities” that Aqaba residents experience as their city becomes a “developed” city. The University of Jordan-Aqaba will serve as her international host. This is Dr. Cavanagh’s second Fulbright. She won a Fulbright Student Scholarship in 2008.

**In 2018,** USCB signed transfer agreements with three universities around the globe: HZ University, Vlissingen, Netherlands; Vidyalkar School of Information Technology (VSIT), Mumbai, India; and Changzhi University, Shanxi, China.

**In May 2018,** NURS B395 Global Healthcare Study Abroad students traveled to Ghana. After landing in Accra, 15 students and faculty traveled to Kumasi to experience health care at Manhyia Government Hospital and the open air “Big Market” where they explored public health concerns and general health care practices found in larger, more developed cities. The students then traveled to local, rural villages surrounding Lake Bosomtwi and assisted at health care clinics for community members encountering endless cases of malaria, diarrhea, malnutrition, bacterial and parasitic infections, HIV and communicable disease. USCB students worked with public health nurses at the clinic who were engaged in health promotion and prevention strategies, including administering immunizations, distributing mosquito nets, and providing nutritional education.

**In 2018,** International Programs Committee invited two Study Abroad vendors, CIS Abroad ([www.cisabroad.com](http://www.cisabroad.com)) and SAI Programs ([www.saiprograms.com](http://www.saiprograms.com)) to the Bluffton Campus to present the services they can offer to USCB faculty and students. USCB has contracts with both agencies now. USCB students can also access part of USC Columbia’s offerings - semester and year round study abroad programs through USC Global Partner Programs. For further questions, email [studyabroad@uscb.edu](mailto:studyabroad@uscb.edu)

[https://www.sc.edu/about/offices\\_and\\_divisions/study\\_abroad/steps\\_to\\_study\\_abroad/choose\\_your\\_destination/index.php](https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/study_abroad/steps_to_study_abroad/choose_your_destination/index.php)

**More information on study abroad can be found on:**  
<https://www.uscb.edu/academics/student-opportunities/international-programs/opportunities/index.html>

**More information on international funding opportunities can be found on:**  
<https://www.uscb.edu/w/student-opportunities/international-programs/study-abroad/index.html>



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



- **The International Programs Committee** will participate in National International Education Week November 18-22 (<https://iew.state.gov>) with a university-wide, week-long international fair. More information is coming soon.
- **The Study Abroad Subcommittee** is preparing an information packet for USCB faculty on creating and conducting faculty-led, study-abroad programs. USCB's new Study Abroad Program Proposal forms are coming soon.
- **The International Programs Committee** will continue to participate in the USCB Welcome Week, Shark-a-palooza and other activities. Coming in August 2019.

## International Programs Committee (IPC) Members:

### Chairs:

**Kimberly Dudas**, Dean of School of the Professions (Co-chair 2018-2019)  
**Babet Villena-Alvarez**, Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

### Campus Internationalization Subcommittee:

**Volkan Sevim**, Assistant Professor of Mathematics (Subcommittee Chair)  
**Nicole Maddox**, Assistant Director of Admissions  
**Alyssa Mayer**, Assistant Professor of Public Health  
**Joe Iglesias**, Assistant Professor of Business Administration

### Fulbright and Other International Opportunities Subcommittee of IPC:

**Kimberly Cavanagh**, Assistant Professor of Anthropology (Subcommittee Chair)  
**Cindy Lahar**, Associate Professor of Psychology  
**Gary Sutton**, USCB Registrar

### Study Abroad Subcommittee:

**Kimberly Dudas**, Dean of School of the Professions (Subcommittee Chair)  
**Chesanny Butler**, Assistant Professor of Nursing  
**Jena Chojnowski**, Assistant Professor of Biology  
**Alison Mathe**, Director of Student Life  
**Mary Moonen**, USCB Bursar  
**Donna Sprout**, IT Business Manager

### Additional Members:

**Candace Brasseur Bruder**, Senior Director of Communications  
**Pat Greene**, Director of Financial Aid  
**Lynn McGee**, Professor of Business Administration

*For questions or comments about this newsletter, please contact  
 Dr. Volkan Sevim at [vsevim@uscb.edu](mailto:vsevim@uscb.edu)*

