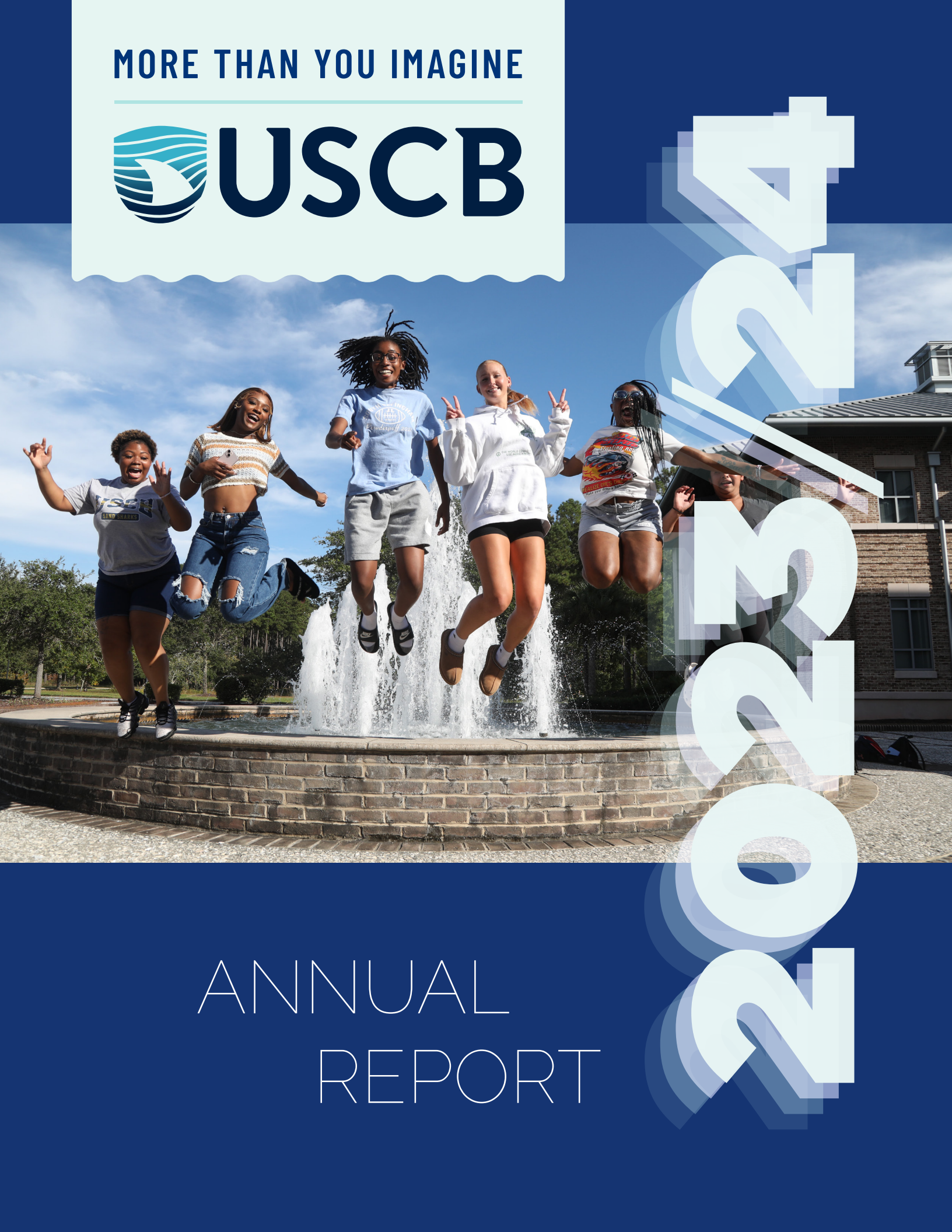


MORE THAN YOU IMAGINE



2020

ANNUAL
REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

USCB LEADERSHIP 3

USCB MISSION STATEMENT 3

BJHEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS 3

USCBEF BOARD OF DIRECTORS 4

AT A GLANCE: selected campus highlights 6

USCB HEADLINES 2023-24 7

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS 9

THE CHANCELLOR’S LIST 13

2023/24

USCB LEADERSHIP

Al M. Panu, Ph.D.
Chancellor

Angela D. Simmons, Ed.D.
Vice Chancellor for Student Development

Eric Skipper, Ph.D.
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

W. Mack Palmour
Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management

Beth G. Patrick
Vice Chancellor for Finance, Administration & IT

Quin Monahan
Director of Athletics

USCB MISSION STATEMENT

The University of South Carolina Beaufort (USCB) responds to regional needs, draws upon regional strengths, and prepares graduates to contribute locally, nationally, and internationally with its focus on teaching, research, and service. USCB is a public, comprehensive institution in the University of South Carolina system, offering associate and baccalaureate degrees in the liberal arts, the sciences, and professional disciplines and select master's degrees in response to regional demand through on-site and distance delivery methods. Serving a diverse population, USCB enriches the quality of life for students and area residents through artistic and cultural offerings; collaborations with regional, national, and international partners; and lifelong learning opportunities.

BJHEC *The Beaufort Jasper Higher Education Commission*

H. Timberlake Pearce, M.D. *Chair*
J. Simon Fraser, J.D., *Vice Chair*
Jane S. Kiser, *Secretary*

Jan Baxter
Tricia L. Etheridge, M.D.
Brenda Litchfield, Ph.D.
Larry S. Rowland

Emory Wayne Rushton
Roberts (Tabor) Vaux, Jr.
Al M. Panu, Ph.D., *ex officio*
Beth G. Patrick, *ex officio*

MISSION STATEMENT *The Beaufort Jasper Higher Education Commission*

THE MISSION OF THE BEAUFORT-JASPER HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION is to support undertakings that improve higher education for Beaufort and Jasper County residents. Established and empowered by *Title 59, Chapter 56* of the *South Carolina Code*, the commission may enter into contracts, hold property, and carry debt. There are nine members – seven Beaufort county residents and two Jasper county residents – who are appointed to four-year terms by the governor.

USCBEF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Justin Rice, Chair
Senior Vice President, First Citizens Bank

Richard Stewart, Vice Chair
Founder & CEO, 303 Associates, LLC

Steven Birdwell
President, The Sea Pines Resort

John Brinkley
General Manager, Ford Motor Company (retired)

Joseph Fraser, III
President, Fraser Construction

David Johnson, Jr.
Partner, Speyside Partners

Kathleen Cullen Jordan
Executive, Corporate Finance (retired)

Robert Jordan, Jr.
Partner, SERG Restaurant Group

Lloyd “Fig” Newton
General, United States Air Force (retired)

Coleman Peterson
President & CEO, Hollis Enterprises LLC

Cynthia Rolfe
Owner, Lowcountry Fresh

Al M. Panu, Ph.D., ex officio
Chancellor, USCB

Tim Daniels, ex officio
Executive Director, USCBEF
Asst. Vice Chancellor, USCB

USCB EDUCATION FOUNDATION

THE MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA BEAUFORT EDUCATION FOUNDATION is to support the University of South Carolina Beaufort in all of its educational, instructional, scientific, literary, research, service, charitable, and outreach endeavors and to maximize private-sector opportunities and support, thereby, empowering the university to provide a margin of excellence beyond what is achievable with state, county, and municipal funds alone.

USCB 2023-2024
A YEAR IN REVIEW



At a Glance:

selected campus highlights, 2023-24

Academic Affairs

- Quadrupled external funding for faculty-led research projects to \$4.6 million.
- Student study abroad/study away trips to the Bahamas, Costa Rica, South Korea, Brazil, South Dakota (Lakota Nation), and the Gulf of Mexico.
- American Association of Colleges and Universities (AACU) Excellence & Innovation Award for International Education.
- Institute for the Study of the Reconstruction Era (ISRE) held its annual summer institute for educators and annual “Breathing Democracy into Spaces” public symposium.

Athletics

- Graduated to NCAA Division II Provisional Year Three.
- Launched two new athletic programs: Men’s and Women’s Basketball.
- Continued academic success of student-athletes.
 - » 123 Sand Sharks named to Peach Belt Conference Presidential Honor Roll
 - » 3.81 Women’s Golf GPA sixth highest nationally in NCAA Division II.

Community Outreach

Conference and Meeting Services, Chamber Music season subscribers, Continuing Education programs, OLLI membership

- +18% audience growth vs. 2023

Development and Alumni Relations

- Increased donors to 779.
- Established five new endowments.
- Hosted alumni events in Charleston and on Hilton Head Island.

Enrollment Management

- 3,922 applications
 - » +6.4% vs. 2023
- 777 enrollment deposits
 - » +7% vs. 2023
- 549 enrolled (new first-year students as of 8/21/24)
 - » +8.1% vs. 2023
- Processed 3,111 FAFSA applications, awarding 2,026 students \$26.2 million in financial aid.
 - » +14% in financial aid awarded vs. 2023

Facilities Management

- Completed renovations of Recreation Center Phase I and Room 105 Campus Center (Bluffton), and 1100 Boundary (Beaufort).
- Began renovations of Recreation Center Phase II (office/locker room wings) and library (Bluffton), and Sandstone and Center for the Arts (Beaufort).
- Installed solar safety lights at entrance gates of five residence halls.
- Changed 486 residence hall breezeway lights to LED bulbs.
- Added new outdoor furnishings to Bluffton and Beaufort campuses.

Student Development

- Provided every first-year student with less than 30 credits a student success coach.
- Revitalized community service opportunities, including MLK Day of Service and Alternative Spring Break.
- Restructured Campus Recreation and Student Life under one director.

USCB Headlines 2023-24

University of South Carolina Beaufort is a vibrant and dynamic academic community. This is a limited selection of news stories from the 2023-24 academic year.

Nursing Program Receives \$1 Million Grant

USCB has been awarded a \$1 million federal grant to advance healthcare education in the region and meet the growing demand for registered nurses in the Lowcountry. The grant is a significant milestone in expanding enrollment in USCB's Bachelor of Science in Nursing. It is a strategic partnership between USCB, Beaufort Memorial Hospital, the City of Beaufort, and Beaufort County.



USCB Honored with Award for International Education

USCB earned the 2023 Excellence & Innovation Award for International Education from the American Association of Colleges and Universities. The award recognizes extraordinary leadership and creativity in addressing the challenges facing higher education.

Undergraduate Researchers Seek Advances Toward Chagas' Disease

About seven million people, mostly in Latin America, have Chagas' disease. Up to 10% of those infected



with the disease will die from it. A faculty-led student research team at USCB might have discovered a new way to beat the parasitic illness.

Students Study at Poland's Poznan University of Medical Sciences

Seven USCB students — three Public Health majors and four Biology majors — spent July 21-29, 2023, in Poland as guests at Poznan University of Medical Sciences. They slept in a university residence hall, attended classes in the PUMS Medical Biology Center, Medical Simulation Center and other facilities, and explored their host city.

Students Expand Horizons at HZ University in the Netherlands

Three USCB students experienced a transformative semester in the Netherlands, where they immersed themselves in new academic and cultural experiences as exchange students at HZ University of Applied Sciences.

USCB Receives Fulbright-Hays Grant for South Korean Project



As Hyundai Motor Group builds an electric vehicle plant at a mega site some 37 miles from USCB's Bluffton campus, preparations to welcome incoming South Korean neighbors and businesses got a huge boost. The university was selected for a competitive Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad grant. It funded an in-depth educational cultural experience in South Korea for faculty, USCB students and K-12 educators in summer 2024.



USCB Approved for Third Provisional Year by NCAA Division II

USCB is approved for provisional year three in its transition to NCAA Division II membership. This marks the final phase before achieving full membership status.

USCB Basketball Era Begins

A new era of Sand Shark Athletics was launched on November 11, 2023, when USCB's inaugural men's and women's basketball teams battled Morris College. The women's team earned a 70-47 victory and the men followed with a 130-88 win over the Hornets.



USCB Covering Tuition, Fees for Talented SC Students

USCB is offering the USC Commitment, a new affordability initiative to cover tuition and academic fees for in-state students graduating in the top 10 percent of their high school class and whose family's annual household income is below \$80,000.

Find these stories and more
uscb.edu/uscb-informed



New Endowed Scholarship Supports International Studies at USCB



Retired USAF colonel Wallace Hollinger has established the Wallace and Gerda Endowed Scholarship at USCB in memory of his loving wife. The scholarship is for students involved in international programs, including study abroad.

Establishing an endowed scholarship at the University of South Carolina Beaufort is personal for Colonel Wallace Hollinger. The US Air Force veteran and longtime Sun City resident is honoring the memory of his late wife, Gerda, by supporting students pursuing international studies.

"It is a natural fit for us," he said.

Wallace is Canadian by birth, and Gerda, who passed away in 2022, was German.

When Wallace met Gerda

When Wallace met Gerda it was 1952. He was working at a small engineering company and attending night school at New York University. One very special morning, he says, Gerda came in to interview for a secretarial position with the company's treasurer. She quickly got Wallace's attention.

"She was wearing a white sweater and a straight-line grey skirt," Wallace recalls.

At the time, he happened to have two tickets to a Broadway show so Wallace asked Gerda if she would like to go to the theater with him. He says the chemistry between them was so great that two weeks later, on their second date, they decided they should go through life together. That was the beginning of their 70-year shared journey.

In 1952, the United States was engaged in the Korean police action, and Wallace had already received a letter from his local draft board when he met Gerda. He joined the United States Air Force and launched a 24-year career spent mostly flying transport aircraft around the world.

That is why the Hollinger scholarship at USCB is specifically for students who share the family's desire to promote mutual respect between people of different countries, origins and ethnicity.

"We live in an integrated world," Hollinger said. "And there's nothing more important than people learning to get along with each other."

Wallace saw a lot of the world from the cockpit of a C-124 transport plane. He clocked 5,000 hours in that aircraft, and 10,000 total hours, flying for the Military Air Transport Service. During his military career, Wallace went to Vietnam, Thailand, Kenya, the Congo, Brazil, Greece, Turkey, and many other countries in the Middle East, Africa, Europe and South America.

"We flew for the Air Force, the State Department, for any governmental agency that needed cargo quickly delivered to any place in the world," he said. "I have been in almost every country in the world."



Wallace and Gerda Hollinger.

Gerda's War Story

One of the many countries Wallace visited as a pilot was Gerda's native Germany. Born before World War Two, Gerda lived with her aunt and uncle while her mother was learning English and looking for work in the United States. The plan was for Gerda to join her mother, but world affairs intervened. By 1937, when Gerda was still an infant, Germany had closed its borders and she could not leave the country.

Gerda spent most of the war in Augsburg, the home of a major ball-bearing manufacturing company repeatedly bombed by

(continued on next page)

the Allies. To protect the children, the citizens of Augsburg relocated them to families who lived in rural areas and away from the city. Gerda went to live with a cousin in the eastern part of Germany.

Unfortunately, that area eventually became part of Russian-occupied East Germany. The first action taken by the Russians was to evict German families from their homes and move in Russian soldiers. Homeless, Gerda and her cousin started walking westward. After a few days, Russians rounded up the Germans, placed them in train box cars and told them they were going to Siberia.

Thrown into a slow-moving box car, Gerda endured grueling, cramped and unsanitary conditions for days. Night after night, guards lined up Gerda and the other refugees and pretended to execute them. Instead of firing directly at their prisoners, the Russian soldiers would fire bullets over their heads.

At the end of this grueling trip, the Russians released their prisoners into Germany's Western Zone, not Siberia. Away from her captors, Gerda was able to contact her family and her favorite cousin brought her back to her family in Augsburg.

Gerda was now 11 years old and had no recollection of her mother living in the United States. She was with the only family she knew, so when her mother sent for her, Gerda resisted. Her aunt and uncle had to convince her to go to the United States with the promise that if she did not like it there, they would bring her back to Germany.

Luckily for Wallace, young Gerda did like life in the U.S., but she never forgot her roots.

"Gerda's painful childhood war story had a profound effect on her adult life and her family," Wallace said.

As her daughter Cyndy, who also lives in Sun City, tells it:

"Mom was so skinny; she and her little friend would crawl under fences and deliver notes back and forth to the priest to let everybody know they were OK."

Cyndy also remembers her mom telling her how as a young child, she saw a playmate blown up during an Allied bombing attack.

"Mom lived through the Second World War, I mean hands-on, and that is why international studies was so important to her," explained her son Don, who lives in Pooler, Georgia.

In this close-knit family, Cyndy and Don are also inspired and influenced by their dad's story.

Wallace's Story

Wallace's childhood was quite different from Gerda's. His family moved to Atlanta from Toronto, Canada, in 1945 when his father was transferred for work. Wallace zipped through middle school in one year and started ninth grade at age 12. By 16, he was enrolled in the aeronautical engineering program at New York University's night school. At 18, he received that draft board letter to serve in the Korean police action.

"Uncle Sam tapped me on the shoulder," Wallace recalls. "I said I don't do trenches."

While waiting for a spot in the Air Force's pilot training program, Wallace took the opportunity to earn ratings as an observer, navigator and aircraft performance engineer. He went from being a reserve officer to regular officer. In 1976, after flying around the world in service to his country, Wallace retired as a full Colonel.

"I figured that I had a pretty successful military career, and could have stayed in for the star," he recalls, "but I wanted to try my luck at having a civilian career."

That second career, spanning 23 years, was working in risk management for an insurance agency in Savannah, Georgia. Wallace also taught risk management and insurance to business and community leaders, including his daughter Cyndy.

In 1999, Wallace retired for a second time, three years after moving to a new community being built near Bluffton, South Carolina.

In Sun City, Gerda and Wallace started the next chapter of their life that included a family environment filled with two adult children, several grandchildren, service to their new community, and a commitment to higher education.

According to Wallace, he and Gerda have educated all their grandchildren through master's degrees and are waiting to educate their 10 great-grandchildren. Their generous support of higher education now also includes USCB students.

Wallace and Gerda witnessed firsthand the precarious state of world affairs in the mid-20th century. Now, their legacy includes helping future generations of students at USCB study and experience other countries in the hope of making the world a better place to live and raise a family.

For more information on establishing an endowed scholarship at USCB, or making a charitable donation, contact Tim Daniels, assistant vice chancellor, at 843-208-8258 or tdaniels@uscb.edu.



Wallace Hollinger at home with his children, Don and Cyndy.

New Scholarship Honors Late Student JonPaul Gonzalez



A new USCB scholarship honors late student JonPaul Gonzalez, a Bluffton native.

The University of South Carolina Beaufort (USCB) announces a new scholarship to honor beloved former student JonPaul Gonzalez (JP), who tragically passed away in a car accident during his first semester at the university. The JonPaul Gonzalez Endowed Scholarship Fund has been established to remember his legacy and uphold his spirit within the university community.

The Gonzalez family created this scholarship to benefit other students who share similarities with JP and to keep his name alive. Initially unsure whether he wanted to go to college, JP found a sense of belonging at USCB, immersing himself in campus life by engaging in intramural basketball and soccer, participating in various campus events, living on the Bluffton campus, and building connections with an array of friends from diverse backgrounds.

"JP was one of those kids who did fine in high school but wasn't overly enthusiastic about academics," said his mother, Christina Galbreath-Gonzalez. "Then he came to USCB and loved it here. It was such a positive experience for him."

Bluffton native JonPaul, 19, was one of three people killed in the two-car accident in Jasper County on Dec. 4, 2021. His girlfriend and fellow USCB student Madison Klepesky, 18, and the driver of the other car also died in the accident.

With an endowment of \$25,000, the fund will generate one \$1,200 scholarship per year in perpetuity. Preference will be given to applicants from Beaufort, Jasper, Hampton or Colleton counties. The selection criteria also include a minimum GPA of 3.0 and community service and/or sports involvement.

The Gonzalez family has close ties with USCB. Christina is an alumna who graduated with a B.S. in Hospitality Management in 2006. Alayne Lawson — JP's aunt and Christina's sister — is an instructor and the teacher cadet coordinator in the Education department.

"The tragedy forced me to reevaluate my own life and steered me to USCB," Lawson said. "Being here, I feel a strong sense of purpose, something I lost when JP died."

The family's initiatives to honor JP extend beyond this endowed scholarship. Christina and Pablo also donated to USCB's mental health services, highlighting the importance of emotional support for students, as experienced by JP's younger brother, Brandon, along with his friends and classmates. Brandon was a dual enrollment student from Bluffton High School who was taking classes with JonPaul at USCB when the tragedy happened.

JP's legacy has inspired other acts of community outreach. The summer before he enrolled at USCB, he joined friends on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic, where they helped build houses for families in need through the non-profit Casas for Cristo. After his passing, his parents and brother returned to the country, donated to the organization to fund the construction of two homes in his name, and participated in a home build.

The family also created a scholarship for players and equipment at Tormenta FC Academy, the local league where JP played soccer for more than a decade and made contributions to Hilton Head Plantation's summer camp, where he worked as a camp counselor for three summers.



Jon Paul and family. JonPaul with his brother Brandon, his mother Christina, and father Juan Pablo.

"JP made being kind cool," one of his high school teachers said, illuminating the impact he had on others. "He was just that guy who was easy to get to know and was friends with everyone."

JP's legacy lives on, not only in the warm memories of those who knew him but through the tangible impacts of the scholarship and charitable acts that he inspired.

The USCB donor scholarship application is open from January 1- March 1 for current and incoming USCB students.

Pritchards Island Research

USCB marine biology students on Pritchards Island are safely relocating sea turtle eggs to a better-situated nest to improve chances of hatching. A generous anonymous gift of \$100,000 to secure equipment and logistical needs for Pritchard's Island was made in May 2024. The donor hopes to inspire others in the Lowcountry who care about our barrier islands and our coastal ecology to consider supporting USCB's Pritchards Island Research Fund.



Nursing Scholarships



Flanked by nursing students, Mike Rosenfeld, president of the Hilton Head Island Hospital Auxiliary, presents a \$35,000 check for scholarships to Christine Beall, chair of the USCB nursing program.



THE CHANCELLOR'S LIST ANNUAL GIVING

\$25,000+

Anonymous (3)
Beaufort Jasper Higher Education Foundation
Beaufort Jasper Higher Education Commission
Christina H. Galbreath-Gonzalez 2006
Colden R. Battey
Dick & Sharon Stewart
Heritage Classic Foundation
Higher Education Trust Inc.
Hilton Head Hospital Auxiliary
MVW & Affiliated Companies
Susan C. Williams

\$10,000–\$24,999

Brays Island Plantation Colony Inc.
Charles Gomulka
Coleman Peterson
Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation
James and Kathleen Jordan
John F. & Donna Brinkley
Katherine R. Peabody
Larry S. Rowland, Jr.
Margaret R. Ver Straten
Margot H. Rowland
Newcastle Foundation Trust
Palmetto Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Rob Jordan
Spring Island Trust
Wallace D. Hollinger

2023/24



THE CHANCELLOR'S LIST ANNUAL GIVING

\$5,000–\$9,999

Anonymous
Claudia Carucci
Clinton J. Butler
College of Beaufort Trustees
Colleton River Charitable Fund
Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, Inc.
David Johnson
Genesis Construction Inc.
Hilton Head Wine and Food Festival
Joseph L. Serafini
Kelly Tours
Nancy R. Beach
Nemours Wildlife Foundation
Randal Thompson
Sara J. Borton
Vortex Foundation
Walda Wildman, LLC, CPA

\$1,000–\$4,999

Anonymous (2)
Al M. Panu
Alan Spachman
Alton O. Self
Barry D. Muffley
Beaufort Water Festival
Beaufort Rentals, LLC
Beaufort-Jasper YMCA of the Lowcountry
Beth Patrick
Carol C. Mather
Carolan G. Norris
Charities Aid Foundation of America

Charles B. Alexander
Charles Eldred
Cindy B. Camp
Coastal Discovery Museum
Coastal Shores Landscape
Dan & Rhonda DeMuth
D.L. Scurry Foundation
Daniel W. Boone
David A. Downey
David E. Murray
Donna & John Jacko

(continued on next page)



THE CHANCELLOR'S LIST ANNUAL GIVING

\$1,000–\$4,999

Dorothy B. Davis
Dorothy M. Schaphorst
Dugout Sports
Ebronah Roberts
Elizabeth N. Muench
Emily R. Hart
Emory W. & Susan Rushton
Ernest A. Muffley
Esther Harnett
Friends Island
Gina Nolan
Gordon K. Haist
Jack F. & Chris Nietert
James S. Gibson
Jane T. & Tom Upshaw
Janice E. House
Jayne L. Violette
Jeffrey P. Schyberg
Jeremy Eubanks
John Parsons
John R. Perrill
Joseph C. & Allyson Harden
Joseph W. Rutter
Karen Peluso
Karin E. McCormick
Kelli Ventling
Laura P. Riski
Lisa Hess
Lora B. Childs
Loring, Wolcott & Coolidge Office
Lynn Baker & Peter Zamuka
Margaret T. Fryer
Mary Shannahan
Mike Ryan
Mikkelson Law Firm, LLC
Montage Hotels & Resorts, LLC

Mr. John M. & Bonnie McCardell
Mr. Marshall T. Bassett
Ms. Carolyn S. Price
Nancy K. Barrett
National Christian Foundation
Okatie Ale House
Palmetto Fine Homes
Pat F. McGarity
Renaissance Charitable Foundation Inc.
Richard L. Childs
Robert C. Steinmetz
Robert E. Brede
Robert G. LeFavi
Roger N. Coe
Russell L. Jeter
S-2 International, LLC
Serey Boats LLC
Sharon Versyp
Stephen John
Susan Hussey
Theresa Kix
Thomas B. Fryer
Schwab Charitable Fund
Thomas Serey
Tim Dyer
Trudy Kaehler
Walmart
Wayne C. Reynolds

2022



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