



USCB FACULTY AND STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

January-May 2025

Message from Dr. Al M. Panu, Chancellor

Fellow Sand Sharks, this message celebrates the vibrant environment at the University of South Carolina Beaufort and highlights the remarkable achievements of our faculty and staff during the second half of 2024 and beyond. The enthusiasm within our community is thriving, and excellence remains a cornerstone of our institution. Innovation and discovery are at the forefront of our mission. Our steadfast dedication to student-focused engagement serves as the bedrock of our successes, with each faculty/staff accolade echoing the collective triumphs of our students and reverberating throughout the university and beyond. In good times and in challenging situations, we at USCB remain committed to supporting our students and enhancing the reputation of our university.

To our innovative Fin-Tastic Sand Sharks, we share our heartfelt appreciation for your tireless efforts!

RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP & INTELLECTUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Barnes, Mollie PhD • Associate Professor of English
(*Department of English, The Arts and Interdisciplinary Studies*)

Awarded. USCB Sabbatical, "Laura Matilda Towne, Abolitionist: Penn School Diaries, 1862-1864." Spring 2025.

Respondent. "Imperfect Women Writers," Modern Language Association Conference, New Orleans, LA. January 2025. [Conference Link](#)

Presented. "Sea Islands Sherros: Ten Beaufort County Women We Should Honor." Women's History Month Celebration, USCB Libraries, Bluffton, SC. March 2025.

Presented. "How to Read Archival Silences." Women's History Month Celebration, USCB Libraries, Bluffton, SC. March 2025.

Catma, Serkan, PhD • Professor of Economics
(*Department of Business and Communication Studies*)

Published. "Recreational value of beach width: an application of travel cost and contingent behavior models." *Journal of Environmental Economics and Policy*, 1-18, 2025.
[Publication Link](#)

D'Antonio, Edward, PhD • Professor of Structural Biology and Biochemistry
(*Department of Natural Sciences*)

Preprint Publication. Husted, A.L.; Sutton, V.R.; Nguyen, H.V.; Presnar, L.A.; Blackburn, R.K.; Staton, J.L.; Borgianini, S.A.; D'Antonio, E.L. "The multifunctional catalytic hemoglobin from *Amphitrite ornata*: Protocols on isolation, taxonomic identification, protein extraction, purification, and characterization." *bioRxiv* 2024, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1101/2024.11.20.624587>.

Preprint Publication. Goyzueta-Mamani, L.D.; Pagliara Lage, D.; Barazorda-Ccahuana, H.L.; Paco-Chipana, M.; Candia-Puma, M.A.; Davila-Del-Carpio, G.; Sobreira Galdino, A.; Machado-de-Avila, R.A.; Cordeiro Giunchetti, R.; D'Antonio, E.L.; et al. "Exploring the potential of malvidin and echioidinin as probable antileishmanial agents through in silico analysis and in vitro efficacy." *bioRxiv* 2024, doi:10.1101/2024.10.04.616659.

Farrell, Carmen, PhD • Assistant Professor of Psychology
(*Department of Humanities and Social Sciences*)

Presented. "Keeping Online Students Engaged with Innovative Class Activities and Assignments." Southeastern Psychological Association Annual Conference. Atlanta, GA, April 10, 2025. [Presentation Link](#)

Hammond, Elizabeth, PhD • Associate Professor and Assessment Coordinator for Education • Early Childhood Education Program Coordinator
(*Department of Education*)

Presented. "Why would I be a teacher? Future teachers' perception of gun violence in schools." with McKenzie Wray (a senior at USCB). Presented at the Critical Questions in Education: The Journey Toward Understanding Teaching and Learning 2025 conference. Feb. 3-5, 2025, Savannah, GA. [Conference Link](#)

Heiens, Richard, PhD • Professor of Marketing
(*Department of Business and Communication Studies*)

Published. "Modeling the Relationship between Time-in-Market and Market Share for Casual-Dining Chains in the Kuwait Market." Journal of International Consumer Marketing, Vol. 37, No.2. [Publication Link](#)

McCoy, Erin R. PhD • Adjunct Faculty of English & Interdisciplinary Studies
(*Department of English, The Arts and Interdisciplinary Studies*)

Awarded. Fulbright Global Scholar Award 2025-2026.

Sevim, Volkan, PhD • Associate Professor of Mathematics
(Department of Computer Science and Mathematics)

Published. "The biological process of problem posing | solving in mathematics."
Constructivist Foundations, 19(3), 247-248.
2024. <https://constructivist.info/19/3/247>[Publication Link](#)

Presented. Cifarelli, V. & Sevim, V. "Exploring Connections between Problem Posing and Problem Solving: Illustrations of Problem Posing as Meaning-Making Within Problem Solving." The 48th Annual Meeting of the Southwest Educational Research Association (SERA), San Antonio, TX. February 2025. [Conference Link](#)

Skees, Murray, PhD • Assistant Professor of Philosophy
(Department of Humanities and Social Sciences)

Presented. "Frictionless Capitalism: Artificial Intelligence, Predictive Algorithms, and the Reproduction of the 'Rational Consumer'," American Philosophical Association's Annual Conference, New York, NY, January 8-11, 2025. [Conference Link](#)

Skipper, Eric, PhD • Provost and EVCAA
(Division of Academic Affairs)

Quoted. Research brief "Graduate Programs and Workforce Needs: How Regional Public Institutions Are Responding to a Changing Job Market." Chronicle of Higher Education. 2025. [Publication Link](#)

Villena-Alvarez, Babet, PhD • Professor of French, Spanish and Global Studies •
Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
(Department of Humanities and Social Sciences)

Joint Venture. "Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) University of South Carolina Beaufort and the Université de Paris Nanterre Institut Universitaire de Technologie (IUT)." [Information Link](#) and [IUT Partner Link](#)

Edited. "SKALE International Materials Dissemination. Compilation of Fulbright-Hays grant-funded materials created for public teaching dissemination." [Online Materials Link](#)

Community Lecture. "The Korean Wave's Impact on the Region: 2025 Update." USCB Bluffton Campus, OLLI and the Community, 5 March 2025. [Information Link](#)

Invited Speaker. "Changing Demographics of the Region: SKALE Asian Literacy Education in the Community." The Sun City Democratic Club, Bluffton, 2 April 2025.

Invited Speaker. "How Korean and Asian Industries are Changing the Region." Rotary Club of Hilton Head, USCB Campus, Hilton Head Island, 15 May 2025. [Event Link](#)

Weir, Carol, MA • Senior Director of Communications, Public Communication and Adjunct Faculty (*Department of Business Administration and Communication Studies*)

Invited Speaker. "Attracting Students to Study Abroad: Boost Your Reputation for Global Education." South Carolina Association of International Education State Conference. Spring 2025. February 28, 2025. [Conference Link](#)

USCB FACULTY COLLABORATIONS

Hutchison, Lynne, DNP, FNP-BC • Chair and Associate Professor of Nursing (*Department of Nursing*), **Shroyer, Ashley, EdD** • Associate Professor of Nursing (*Department of Nursing*)

- **Presented.** Invited Poster Presentation. "Using simulation to provide specialty clinical opportunities for students in rural settings." Presented at NurseTim Nurse Educators Conference August 2024, Minneapolis, MN. [Conference Link](#)

Beall, Christina, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC • Associate Professor of Nursing (*Department of Nursing*) and **Kuehn, Jo DNP, RN, CNE, CPHQ** • Assistant Professor of Nursing (*Department of Nursing*)

- ***Grant Received.*** BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation, \$25,000 in support of Health Care Pathways Support ("Project"). USCB Emergency Nurses Fund (New). [Information Link](#)

Kuehn, Jo DNP, RN, CNE, CPHQ • Assistant Professor of Nursing (*Department of Nursing*) and Nursing Honors Seminar IV Students

- ***Fundraised.*** Nursing Honor Students Serving Vulnerable Populations of the Lowcountry, \$5,447 for HELP of Beaufort [Organization Link](#), Hopeful Horizons [Organization Link](#), Child Abuse Prevention Association [Organization Link](#), and Habitat for Humanity [Organization Link](#)

USCB HONOR MEMBERSHIPS

Norman Varnes • Lead Grounds
(Facilities & Auxiliary Services)
Vincent P. Mesaric Award.

Ponce, Chelsea, M.A. • Adjunct Professor
(Department of Humanities & Social Sciences)
Academic Advisor of the Year.

Kevin Dopf, EdD • Adjunct Professor
(Department of Business and Communication Studies)
Adjunct Professor of the Year.

Kathryn Madden, M.S. • Instructor & Field Placement Coordinator
(Department of Education)
Center for Teaching & Learning Teaching Award.

Jones Williams, Morgin, PhD • Assistant Professor of Mathematics
(Department of Computer Science & Mathematics)
Professor of the Year.

USCB GRANTS

Cavanagh, Kimberly. USC Office of the Vice President for Research (RISE), \$6,000 (**NEW**). Laying the Groundwork: The Development of a Bibliography, Pre-Contact Cultural Context, and Research Plan for the Pritchards Island Anthropological Research Project (PIARP), Pritchards Island, South Carolina.

D'Antonio, Edward. USC Office of the Vice President for Research (RISE), \$6,000 (**NEW**). Gene Identification, Recombinant Production, and Characterization of a Potential Enzymatic Hemoglobin from the Marine Terebellid Polychaeta Pista palmata.

Gill, Diana. U.S. Department of Agriculture, \$293,982 in year 1 / \$2,400,000 over 5 years (**NEW**). Support to the USDA Regional Food Business Center.

Hargrove, Bonnie. SC Arts Commission, \$21,179.00 (**NEW**). General Operating Support Funding.

Pettay, Daniel. Port Royal Sound Foundation, \$25,000 (**NEW**). Support to the Port Royal Sound Water Quality Monitoring Network.

Sawyer, Caroline. SC Humanities/NEH, \$4,800 (**NEW**). Books by the River Post-Production Completion & Podcast.

Sawyer, Caroline. SC Humanities / NEH \$2,500 (**NEW**). Voices of St. Helena Island Schools.

Skees, Murray. USC Office of the Vice President for Research (RISE), \$6,000 (**NEW**). Towards a Critical Theory of Datafication.

Skipper, Eric. National Science Foundation (NSF), (*Extended - no new funds*). NSF Engines Development Award: Advancing Cybersecurity Technologies for the Maritime System (SC).

Villena-Alvarez, Juanita. US Department of Education (USDE) / Fulbright, (*Extended - no new funds*). USCB South Korean and Asian Literacy Education (SKALE).

[Fin-tastic and Shark Tales submissions](#)