

# USCB<sup>™</sup> SHARK TALES

Vol. 5 • No.1

Celebrating Stories of USCB Student and Alumni Success

FALL 2023

## Celebrating Stories of USCB Student Success

In Spring 2024, we find ourselves reflecting on the journey we've taken during Fall 2023 and the milestones we've achieved. With each passing year, our community at the University of South Carolina Beaufort grows stronger, driven by the relentless pursuit of knowledge and the unwavering commitment to excellence. Our students' academic pursuits are not confined to lecture halls and textbooks; rather, they extend far beyond, into the realms of real-world challenges and meaningful solutions. With every project, every endeavor, they demonstrate a profound understanding of the power of knowledge and the responsibility that comes with it. Despite the obstacles encountered along the way, our students persist, fueled by a shared passion for making a difference. Join us in honoring the spirit of Fall 2023 and the remarkable individuals who embody its essence. Together, let us celebrate the brilliance, the resilience, and the boundless potential of our USCB community.

**Angela Simmons**  
Vice Chancellor for

Student Development  
**Eric Skipper**  
Provost & EVCAA

USCB Celebrates These Success Stories

## STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS:

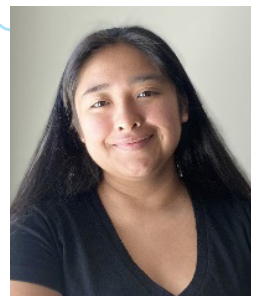
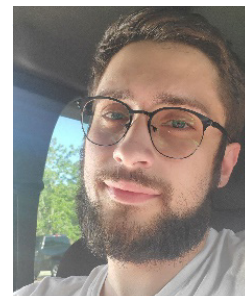
### Stories From Abroad

In the last edition of Shark Tales, 4 USCB Biology Majors (**Logan Stewart, Ashley Duggan, Isabel Cannon, and Milla Wojciechowski**) and 3 Public Health Majors (**Tameika Lynard, Darniece Calistro, and Kari Hill**) started their adventures studying abroad at Poznan University of Medical Sciences in Poland. Our students were given an opportunity to experience medical school in Poland while earning course credit at USCB. Our students slept in the PUMS dorms, networked with PUMS faculty/staff, and explored Poland, of course! A few of the highlights that our students mentioned about the experience was the ability to travel to Poland, learn in a five-story Medical Simulation center, as well as experience the whole opportunity with Free Tuition. This opportunity will be offered again to any interested students in July 2024. Info can be found at this [Link](#)



In October 2023, **Celeste Cruz-Reyes** (Elementary Education) and **Evan Calabrese** (Secondary Education – English) were selected as the two student participants for USCB's South Korean and Asian Literacy (SKALE) project. This project, funded by Fulbright-Hayes and the U.S Department of Education, is one of many steps that the university is taking

towards preparing the local community for the current and continuing influx of Korean culture to our area, including the development of a Hyundai EV facility in Savannah and a Korean EV battery facility just a short distance away. The participants have been dedicating countless hours to learning Korean language and culture, and will be traveling to South Korea for 4 weeks starting in June to immerse themselves in Korean life. The goal of this project is for participants to create a lesson plan that can be used for current/future students that will educate their students. Congratulations to Celeste and Evan! [Link](#)



### Thank you to Our Student Workers

The University of South Carolina Beaufort Facilities Management Department is very lucky to have such outstanding student workers. Day in and day out they strive to make



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## STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS:

(Continued from front page)

USCB a better place for students, faculty and staff. These kids are highly motivated, truly dedicated, romping stomping, ass kicking name taking and very intelligent. They work well as a team or on their own. With or without supervision. It is more than an honor to run a crew like this. Fins Up! To the Facilities Management student workers. **Anna Crider, Caleb Freeman, Aiden Driscoll-Sadusky, Shishir Nath, John Leland and Michael Corrales.**



## USCB Helping the Community

In December, USCB student organizations teamed up for a campus-wide toy drive! The competition amongst the organizations was vigorous as they tried to be the team with the most donations! All 400+ toys were donated to Bluffton Self Help for local children. Thank you to Student Life for sponsoring this. [Story Link](#)



**Francie Gaskin** (Public Health) raised \$10,000 for Best Buddies, an international nonprofit that aids individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) with employment, leadership skills, inclusive living, and friendships. Francie is the President of USCB's Best Buddies organization, and was named a 2023 Best Buddies Champion of the Year for her dedication to the growth of the USCB Best Buddies organization as well as her desire to aid those with IDD. [Story Link](#)

## Alternative Fall Break

Alternative Fall Break was an opportunity for our USCB community to use their free time during Fall Break to provide assistance to those in need. For Fall Break 2023, USCB students **Emma Carrington, Kylie Doto, Shannon Richardson, Kataya Reese, and Catherine Parnell** volunteered with Habitat for Humanity in Bluffton. Thank you all so much for using your time away from classes to support those in need in our local community! [Link](#)





## International Students on Campus

USCB welcomed over 50 new and returning international students — representing 24 countries (in 6 continents): Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, France, Germany, Ghana, Honduras, Iceland, India, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Lithuania, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and Vietnam. Our biggest groups are from India (12), Norway (6), and the United Kingdom (6). In 2017, USCB organized the “India Summit” with guests from universities in India, paving the way for our international students from that country to study at USCB. [Story Link.](#)



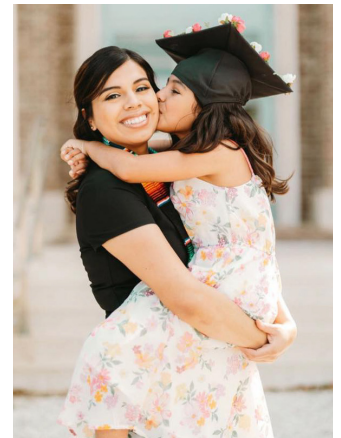
## Communications Internships

Summer 2023, Alexis Herc (Communication Studies, Class of 2023), and Communication Studies senior Kaylea Winebrenner completed internships at ClearWave Fiber's Savannah, GA headquarters. They gained hands-on work experience while supporting the telecommunications company's mission to provide faster internet for customers. [Story Link.](#)



## SCNRI's First Funding Recipient

Beaufort and Jasper Counties are currently at a competitive disadvantage when it comes to hiring nurses, creating critical gaps in our healthcare system. We are proud to see one of our BSN graduates, Krystal Maldonado, become SCNRI's (South Carolina Nurse Retention Initiative) first funding recipient and discuss this challenge with WJCL. [Story Link.](#)



View the full interview [here.](#)

## Hilton Head Hospital Auxiliary's Gift of \$21,000 for Scholarships

USCB is thankful for the Hilton Head Hospital Auxiliary's recent gifts of \$21,000 to fund nursing scholarships at our institution – where all of the Bachelor of Nursing Class of 2023 who have taken the NCLEX-RN exam **passed on their first try!** Pictured (left to right): Lynne Hutchison, chair of @uscb\_nursing; Haley Wright, senior; Vicki Gorbett, President of the Hilton Head Hospital Auxiliary Board of Directors; Lafara Rhodes, junior; Sierra Brown, junior (honors); and Tim Daniels, USCB Assistant Vice Chancellor for Development and Alumni Relations. [Story Link.](#)





## Welcome to USCB - Freshmen Honors

USCB Chancellor Al M. Panu welcomed 59 incoming Honors freshmen representing 11 majors, 36 cities/towns in South Carolina, and 6 states: Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. [Story Link.](#)



## HONORS & AWARDS

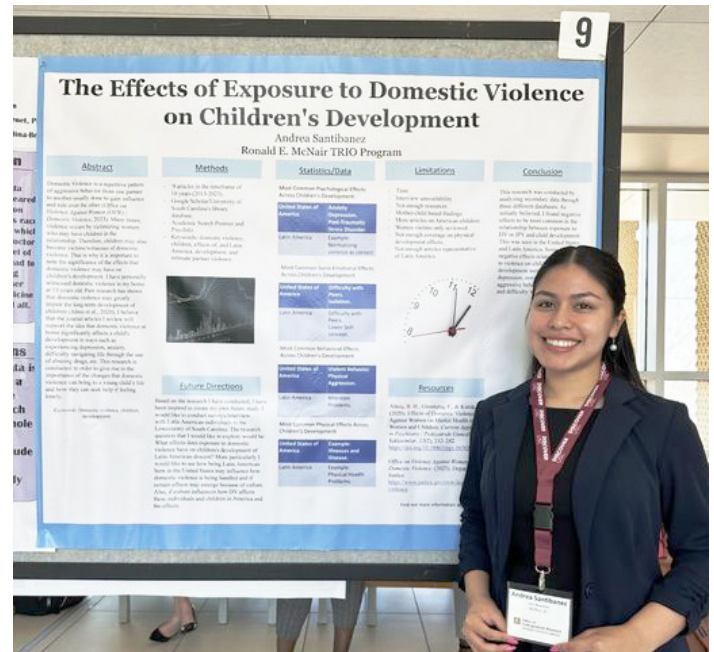


First-generation student **Denia Lopez** (Biology – Coastal Ecology and Conservation Alum) is continuing her academic pursuits after her graduation from USCB in December 2023. She is joining the Peerside Program at the Florida Institute of Oceanography in St. Petersburg! Her year-long mentorship through this program begins in January, and we are so excited to see what amazing discoveries and research she will conduct through this program! Congratulations Denia! [Link](#)

In November 2023, USCB Hospitality Students **Victoria Riddle** and **Alexandria Heeke** attended the Tourism and Leadership Council [Awards Gala](#), where both students received a \$2,500 scholarship for their dedication for preserving and growing the tourism industry. Congratulations Victoria and Alexandria! [Link](#)



**Andrea Santibanez** (Psychology), a recent Robert McNair Scholar, was awarded a \$2,000 Magellan Guarantee grant to continue her research on her current project, "Ethnic Differences in Seeking Help from Exposure to Domestic Violence in South Carolina". We are so proud of Andrea for pursuing research in this area to provide awareness and aid for those in need. [Link](#)



**Graceyn Yonce** (Psychology) had the honor of not only presenting research at a conference but presenting at an international conference in the Netherlands! She spoke on behalf of the USCB Social & Cultural Psychology Laboratory alongside Dr. Messick at the 2023 International Association for the Psychology of Religion in Groningen, Netherlands. We are so proud of Graceyn for receiving this opportunity! [Link](#)

**Anna Szalc** (Studio Art Major) was selected for a national juried art show in Clifton Springs, New York for her etching print, "Vilka". She said her inspiration for this selected work was a combination of the engravings of Albrecht Dürer and her own imagination. [Link](#)





## Expanding Horizons



Members of the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) toured The Boeing Company in Charleston! Alongside them was USCB alum and current Boeing Employee **Levi Arencibia**. These students were learning that the sky is truly the limit in regards to their professional pursuits. [Link](#)

## STEM Career Fair in Columbia



Dr. Ron Erdei and Dr. David Fusi took members of student organization ACM (Association for Computing Machinery) to USC's STEM Career Fair in Columbia. They spoke with potential employers and found that their skills are very much in demand! [Story Link](#).

## History & Culture of the Low Country

Students from **Dr. James Shinn's** "History & Culture of the Low Country" course visited Parris Island Marine Museum and toured Spanish and French settlement sites on the island to expand their knowledge from the classroom beyond campus grounds! [Link](#)



They also visited the Altamaha Town Heritage Preserve in Okatie, the site of one of the primary settlements of the Yamasee. This Native American nation played an important role in the Lowcountry's history in the late 1600s and early 1700s. Archaeologist Hannah Hoover led a walking tour, shared some Yamasee artifacts and demonstrated how to do archaeological fieldwork. [Story Link](#).



## Experiential Learning

Student production assistants, together with executive producer Dr. Caroline Sawyer and host Holly Bounds-Jackson, ran a booth at the S.C. State Fair about their TV show "By The River." [Story Link](#).



## CDC Museum and Emory Graduate School Visit

Several of our USCB Honors students took an overnight trip to explore many exciting sites in Atlanta! Within this bustling city, our amazing group of Nursing (**De'Andra Brown, Iyinda**

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## CDC Museum and Emory Graduate School Visit

(Continued from page 5)

**Kirkland, Arianna Pee, and Jania Simmons**), Psychology (**Savanna Fumbi, Andrea Santibanez, and Brianna Wells**) Biology (**Lauren Hutto**) and Public Health (**Gabriella Gloster**) students took a tour of Emory University to learn more about their graduate school opportunities as well as received personal presentations from 3 scientists at the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Of course, this trip included dining at international restaurants and exploring the biggest aquarium in the country, the Georgia Aquarium! A special thank you to Dr. A for organizing this trip to provide these students with this great opportunity! [Link](#)



## SCETV's By The River Crew - National Season 3

**Danielle Cobb** - Social Media Producer

**Aaliyah Newman** - Production Assistant

**Maria Sacconi** - Digital Producer

**Abigail Vining** - Associate Producer

**Tyler Yates** - Assistant Editor



## Beaufort College Honors

On December 15th, the Beaufort College Honors Program awarded 3 students with their Honors Medallions to commemorate their achievements within the Honors program. Congratulations to **Angelina Barrs** (Psychology), **Yakelin Castro Hernandez** (Biology), and **Mackenzie Morris** (Biology). [Link](#)



## SPECIAL NOTE:

**Greene, Patricia** • Financial Aid/VA Director  
(Financial Aid Office)

For the first time in 40 years, the U.S. Department of Education has made major changes to the FASFA form, which changes go into effect starting with the 2024-2025 FASFA, released on December 31st, 2023. The changes will allow students an easier process of completing the FASFA form and will result in 610,000 more students from low-income backgrounds to receive Pell Grants. As employees of higher education, we all know just how life-changing this FASFA update can be for our current and future students, and we advise that you learn more about it here: [Information Link](#).

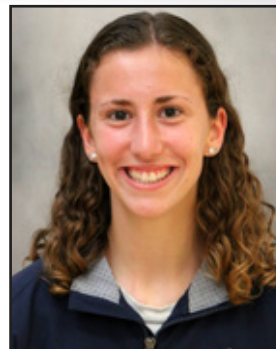


# Athletics

In the Fall of 2023, our campus welcomed the inaugural season for our Men's Basketball Team and Women's Basketball Team. Congratulations to all students on both teams for making USCB history and being the first to welcome basketball to our university. Fins up! [Link](#)



**Jacob Mitchell** (Information Technology) placed in first at the Georgia Southern Fall Classic on October 14th, which was his third consecutive race in which he was awarded 1st place!



**Taylor Atkinson** (Secondary Education in Mathematics), **Sofia Mejia** (Public Health), and **Cydney Stevenson** (Nursing) all finished in the Top 10 during the Brewton-Parker Invitational on September 22nd in Mount Vernon. At this same meet, USCB finished in 2nd place overall!



**Ashleigh Mead** (Business Administration) claimed the Patsy Rendleman Invitational individual title on October 2nd. The event occurred at the Country Club of Salisbury in North Carolina, and Ashleigh took the title by 3 strokes!

