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Front Matter - 2021

Josh Ruppel

University of South Carolina - Upstate

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BEST STUDENT PAPER

Submissions by our students are entered into a Best Student Paper Competition; the submissions are reviewed and ranked by the journal's Editorial Board. The winning submission(s) is marked by a ★ in the Table of Contents.

Cover art by USC Upstate graphic design student Mikayla Woods.

THE EDITORIAL BOARD



DR. JOSHUA RUPPEL
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Joshua V. Ruppel, PhD is a Professor of Chemistry and Director of Research at USC Upstate. His current research focuses on the synthesis and characterization of a library of organic compounds which may have applications as an antibiotic or in cancer therapy. His research has been published in well-respected peer-reviewed journals such as Journal of the American Chemical Society, Journal of Organic Chemistry, Organic Letters, European Journal of Organic Chemistry, Journal of Porphyrins and Phthalocyanines, and Tetrahedron Letters. Dr. Ruppel regularly engages undergraduate students in his research, providing valuable hands-on laboratory experiences for those students seeking placement in graduate and/or professional school, or seeking employment in STEM careers after graduation. His research efforts and working with students inside and outside the classroom have been recognized by a number of awards including USC Breakthrough Star award and the USC Upstate Excellence in Teaching and Advising Award in 2019 along with the 2018 award for Excellence in Research and Scholarly Pursuits.

VIRGINIA CONONIE
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT EDITOR

Virginia Cononie is an Assistant Librarian, Coordinator of Reference and Research. Her published scholarship takes interest in scholarly communication, library funding advocacy, and marketing and outreach. At the library, she engages with students and library users at the reference desk, instructs information literacy sessions and collects materials for biology studies and African American studies.



DR. DARLENE AMENDOLAIR
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Darlene Amendolair Ph.D., an Associate Professor. Dr. Amendolair has been on faculty of USC Upstate since 2006; received her Ph.D. from Capella University in 2007, masters in Resource Management (Computer Network) from Webster University 1986, US Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC) Certificate in Science, 1989, and master in nursing administration from University of South Carolina 1983; served in the US Army Nurse Corps from June 1968 to September 1997, retiring as a Colonel. Currently teaches in the BSN, RN-BSN, and Graduate programs. Research activities include Effects of Cell Phone use and the patient's perceptions of being cared for, use of Virtual Environments in learning, perceptions of women with cognitive dysfunction after

chemotherapy, nurses' perception of the barriers to exhibit caring behaviors, PI for the development of a Care Model for a local hospital, PI for the development and validation of a Professional Nursing Practice Model. Support research for staff nurses by providing structure classes and individual mentoring. She received Palmetto Gold Faculty award 2015, Daisy Faculty award 2014, and University of South Carolina Breakthrough award 2014. Have served of various University and MBSON committee, currently on the Chair, Promotion and Tenure Committee, Senate, and am parliamentarian for MBSON. Has been a presenter at several conferences, both national and international conference, Author/Co-author of several published manuscripts; have obtained a total of \$46,640 in grant funding.

DR. JUNE CARTER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Dr. Carter is Professor of Spanish and Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL). Her research interests include Latin American narrative; Afro-Hispanic literature; US Latino/a literature, as well as the application of the science of learning to college teaching. She is the co-editor of *José Agustín: Onda and Beyond*, and has published works in several journals, including: *Hispania*; *Afro-Hispanic Review*; *College Language Association Journal*; *Anuario de Letras*; *Latin American Literary Review*; *Caribbean Quarterly*; *Prismal Cabral*.

Letras; *Latin American Literary Review*; *Caribbean Quarterly*; *Prismal Cabral*.



DR. MICHAEL DINGER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Dr. Dinger is an Associate Professor of Management. His research interests include information security and IT workforce management. He has published his work in a number of top journals, including *MIS Quarterly*; *Information Systems Research*; *Journal of Management Information Systems*; and *Journal of the Association for Information Systems*.

DR. TINA HERZBERG
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Tina Herzberg, Ph.D. is a Professor of Special Education. Her primary research interests are braille literacy, preparation of tactile materials for students who are visually impaired, and assessment of students with visual impairment. Her work has primarily been published in the international peer-reviewed *Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness*. Prior to her arrival at USC Upstate, she served as a general education classroom teacher, an itinerant teacher of students with visual impairment, specialist for a regional service center, and adjunct instructor.



ELAINE MARSHALL
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Elaine Marshall is the Director of Sponsored Awards at USC Upstate. She has been with the University since 1996 and works with all faculty and staff on the Upstate campus who pursue and receive grant funding. Elaine holds a national Certified Research Administrator Designation from the Research Administrators Certification Council. She also has a BA in English and History and a MA in English Literature from Clemson, where she also taught full-time before coming to USC Upstate.

DR. BEN MONTGOMERY
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



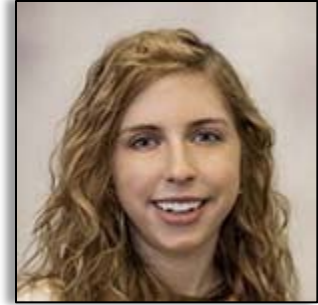
Dr. Montgomery is an Associate Professor of Biology. His research focuses on the evolutionary ecology of plant reproduction and plant pollinator interactions. He is currently focused on the partitioning of pollinators among different species of *Silene*, a genus of wildflowers with a wide array of floral traits and multiple pollination syndromes. Dr. Montgomery is also interested in delayed self-pollination as a mechanism that allows for cross pollinations while also providing reproductive assurance. His longer term research interests include competition for pollination between different species and mechanisms for the maintenance of cytoplasmic male sterility (CMS) as well as repercussions of CMS for the maintenance of genetic diversity. He has been working with the Spartanburg Trees Coalition to work toward the eradication of Kudzu in the natural area on the USC Upstate Campus and is the *de facto* curator of the Upstate Herbarium. He has published his work in several journals, including the *Biological Invasions*, *Oecologia*, *Annals of Botany*, *American Midland Naturalist*, *Oikos*, and *Botany*.



DR. RENU PARIYADATH
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Renu Pariyadath is an Assistant Professor of Communication. Her published scholarship takes interest in the communicative processes that lead to the dissolution of Self-Other constructs within intercultural-, organizational-and transnational communication contexts. She particularly focuses on how people and organizations use non-identity-based modalities of organizing for social and environmental justice, locally and globally, borrowing widely from critical communication theory and transnational feminist theory. More recently, she has been engaged with projects related to critical pedagogies and pedagogies of care. Renu has published in journals such as *Environmental Justice and Women's Studies Quarterly (WSQ)* and has contributed to several edited collections of scholarly papers.

DR. JULIE WADE
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Julie T. Wade is an Assistant Professor of Management in the Johnson College of Business and Economics (JCBE). She received her PhD in Management Information Systems from Clemson University and her research interests include social media and virtual communities. Her work appears in MIS Quarterly and Communications of the Association for Information Systems, among other outlets.



JENNIFER GUARDNER
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Jennifer Guardner is the Grants Coordinator for Sponsored Awards and Research Support. She graduated from California State University, Fullerton and has a diverse background in Social Services, Human Resources, and now Grant Management. Her passion for working with the community and her experience in education was a crucial platform that led her into a career at USC Upstate. As the Grants Coordinator, she is excited to assist students, faculty, and staff as they pursue endeavors that supports the mission of USC Upstate.



GRANT WRITING: RECENT BIG WINNERS!

Universities benefit substantially when faculty members are awarded external grant monies for research or service projects. Applying for grant opportunities is a very time consuming and challenging process that often goes unrewarded since most opportunities are highly competitive with only a small percentage being funded. Grant monies are often used to support student research assistants and thus can have a very positive impact on a student's academic experience. We would like to congratulate all USC Upstate faculty members who have recently been funded.

2021 AWARDS

Chiang, Chung-Yean	RISE - Examining demand and supply-chain causes of inventory variation: Evidence from the automotive industry	\$6,000.00
Christ, Christa	Magellan - Promoting Resilience to COVID Grief through Mindfulness-Based Interventions	\$3,000.00
Dinger, Michael	RISE - IT Professional Work Group Embeddedness Impacts on Professionalism, Work-Life Conflict and Organizational Citizenship	\$6,000.00
Donaldson, Matthew	ASPIRE III - Studio Upstate: An Undergraduate-Run, Faculty-Led Design Firm	\$38,743.00
Egbue, Ona	ASPIRE I - A Multi-Agent Model for Power System Resilience	\$15,000.00
Egbue, Ona	RISE - Socio-Technical System Dimensions of Electric Vehicle Adoption	\$6,000.00
Gaffney, Nicholas	RISE - Conversations on Race and Jazz at the Crossroads of the Jazz Community, 1955-1964	\$6,000.00
Hundley, Shuang	RISE - How Does Tailoring Work in mHealth? A Systematic Review of Tailored Interventions Using Mobile Devices to Promote Health Behavior Change	\$6,000.00
Kearns, Andrew	EXTERNAL - Unit Competition for Course Revision using OER and Affordable Resources	\$5,000.00
Kennedy, Toshua	EXTERNAL - USC Upstate Nurse Faculty Loan Program	\$68,360.00
King, Colby	Magellan - Moral Panic and Criminal Justice Identifying the Warning Signs	\$2,233.00
Lee, Shirleatha	EXTERNAL - HOPE (Holistic Opportunities & Partnerships that Empower) Nursing Success Project	\$483,578.00
Liao, Yin-chi	RISE - Gender, Quality Signals, and Crowdfunding Success	\$6,000.00
Lorenz, Alexander	RISE - Life and Language of German Immigrants and their Economic, Cultural, and Linguistic Contributions to the South Carolina Upstate	\$6,000.00
Marlow, David	EXTERNAL - Indigenous and Disenfranchised Persons in Central America and the U.S.: A cross-cultural comparison of language, cultural identity, and educational structures in support of diversity-enriched pedagogy	\$99,973.00

Marlow, David	Magellan - Dialect and Disenfranchisement: Using Judgements of Dialectal Spanish as a Pathway to Equity Education	\$2,998.00
Nag, Anita	EXTERNAL - Host shutoff modulated by viral RNA and nonstructural protein 1 of coronavirus	\$69,000.00
Nag, Anita	Magellan - The Role of SARS-CoV Non-structural Protein 1 in Cytoplasmic Stress Granule Formation	\$2,996.00
Oswald-Hensley, Anna	EXTERNAL - USC Upstate ACHIEVE 2021-22	\$511,132.00
Pae, Holly	EXTERNAL - Project CREATE 2021-22	\$44,603.00
Placek, Matthew	ASPIRE I - Democracy's Crisis of Legitimacy: Causes and Consequences of Political Support in Global Context	\$15,000.00
Placek, Matthew	RISE - Social Media, Quality of Governance, and Citizen Support for Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe	\$6,000.00
Randall, Kristina	EXTERNAL - 2020 Community Engaged Scholars	\$9,552.00
Ruppel, Joshua	EXTERNAL - South Carolina IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (SC INBRE) - USC Upstate - Year 2 of 5	\$138,000.00
Ruppel, Susan	Magellan - How Appearance, Gender, and Presentation Style Impact Perception On Expert Witness Credibility	\$3,000.00
Shorter, Kimberly	Magellan - Do excess doses of 3 Vitamin B12 forms cause changes in enzymes linked to Tau phosphorylation and Autism?	\$3,000.00
Shorter, Kimberly	Magellan - Does miR-718 target Phospholipase C-B2 and subsequently affect CREB phosphorylation?	\$3,000.00
Storm, Jonathan	Magellan - Describing the Morphology and Mating Behavior of Enchenopa binotata Halesia, a New Member of the Two-marked Treehopper Species Complex	\$3,000.00
Tang, Xiao	RISE - The Impact of Individual Time Management Skill on Learning Performance in Online Courses	\$6,000.00
Tanner, Scott	ASPIRE I - Investigation of P-glycoprotein Deficiency on the Development of Caenorhabditis elegans as a Model for Human Necrotizing Enterocolitis	\$15,000.00
Tanner, Scott	RISE - Impact of p-glycoprotein deficiency on the development of Caenorhabditis elegans as a model for human intestinal disease	\$6,000.00
Turgut, Refika	EXTERNAL - Collaborative Research: Developing an Integrated Computer Science Curriculum for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Classrooms at Grades 3-5	\$241,897.00
Waldrop, Susannah	EXTERNAL - USC Upstate Midlands GEAR UP	\$25,000.00
Webb, Ginny	Magellan - Examining the intricate relationship between the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccination acceptance	\$5,942.00
Webber, Carolyn	RISE - Southern Professional Minority Women Communicating Experiences of Sexual Harassment	\$6,000.00

TOTAL \$1,875,007.00

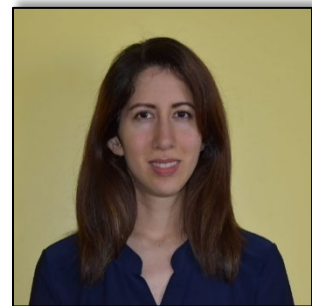
STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

Each volume of USC Upstate's Student Research Journal reserves a section to celebrate the efforts, activities, and successes of our students. The spotlights are typically divided into two major categories: Alumni Spotlights and Nontraditional Student Spotlights. Students featured in the Alumni Spotlight section are nominated by faculty members excited about the transition of USC Upstate students into jobs and professional programs following graduation. Students featured in the Nontraditional Student Spotlight section are nominated by faculty members impressed by the advanced time management skills and multitasking abilities of students facing extra challenges during their tenure at USC Upstate (e.g., return to learn students, students working outside jobs and/or those having a family). In the current volume we spotlight and five alumni and one non-traditional student.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Jessica Cuadra

How does success define a person? When I look into who I am, neither my school diploma nor my current job title can unveil an answer. I think of myself in a series of experiences that have built me, whether failing or succeeding. I come from Nicaragua, a third world country. I can recall that an imported bottle of peanut butter was the special dessert of the day. There I only knew of a health care system that was severely underfunded with great limitations on medications.

A lot has changed in my childhood town since I lived there, but this is how I remember it. I moved to the U.S about 10 years ago with my dreams and 1 luggage containing my belongings. My knowledge of the English language was very limited, but that never stopped me from a new beginning. I did not know about how universities worked, but I knew I wanted to start by getting my degree. I remember my first goal was to be able to communicate better, so I applied for ESL classes. Unbeknownst to me, the beginning of a journey that would change my life for the better



Later on, I enrolled in Greenville technical college for an Associate degree in Sciences. I chose this path due to my inclination towards understanding our biologic aspects as human beings and what surrounds us. These years were what would start defining me as a student. I struggled to understand the instructors and I had no one to turn to for guidance or advice. Regardless of my situation, I knew I could not give up because I had erased that word from my personal dictionary.

After Greenville tech, I decided to apply to USC Upstate to continue my education. Here, there was something that changed me as a person. I was told by the faculty members it was okay to ask questions and to communicate my struggles. This impacted me, as I decided to take the opportunity to do so. I knew I had an accent, and they may not understand what I was saying but I still tried. My advisor Dr. Pilgrim was very understanding, helpful and I never felt judged. To me words cannot describe how grateful I was and am to have come across her in my biology class and then as my advisor.

I always felt a calling to follow a path in the medical field to help others. Through this exploration, I discovered many careers choices that I never knew existed. I felt a new world of possibilities opened up for me at USC Upstate. In the Summer of 2017, I had the opportunity to collaborate with Dr Storm's research project. I contributed by gathering data on the white tail deer population in rural Spartanburg, SC.

Next, I became interested in Dr. Ruppel's organic chemistry research. I knew it would be a challenge, and would help me grow as a person. Our focus was to design a bacteriochlorin glycoconjugate in fewer reaction steps than previously published literature. The "click" reaction was carried to obtain carbohydrate bacteriochlorin conjugates in mono and di positions. This could lead to a molecule with the desired properties of a photosensitizer for potential use in Photodynamic Therapy. In collaboration with my fellow student Melissa Lech, this project received a Magellan Scholar Award in 2019. This was followed by a Magellan Voyager Award plus the Sponsored Awards and Research Support to help fund traveling to the 2019 National ACS exposition in Orlando, FL. Next, I was awarded Best poster presentation at USC Upstate Research Symposium. In addition, I also presented my research project at USC Discovery day 2019 on Columbia, SC. The research project was successfully published in the European Journal of Organic Chemistry (EJOC) in September 2019. A big thank you to my mentor Dr. Ruppel who was there to support me through this process.

During my time in USC Upstate, I would go home excited in preparation of my next educational challenge. I would wake up feeling inspired because my professors believed in me. I graduated in 2019 with a bachelor's degree majoring in Biology and with minor in Chemistry. I decided to chase my health care career as a Physician Assistant. After 2 years of applying, I am currently set to start my Physician Assistant program next year in Concordia University. This has been a wonderful journey and am very thankful to have chosen USC Upstate. I plan on furthering my education and give back to my community.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Ryan Daniel Dolewski



Like many incoming biology majors, Ryan dreamed of becoming a medical doctor and enrolled in the pre-med program at USC Upstate in 2009. After a year of studies, however, that dream derailed after realizing doctors actually have to treat people that are sick, and that did not sit well with someone, who at the time, would rather live life as a bubble boy than get within 10 feet of someone with a mild cough. Over the following semesters, his focus would shift from pursuing a career in ecology to becoming a molecular biologist to forever working the cash register at a fast-food restaurant in the mall. However, this wild journey of finding one's true calling would finally be over for Ryan once he stepped foot in

Organic Chemistry I with Professor Josh Ruppel. It was the first class that he truly connected with and sparked his interest in a life of science and chemistry.

After completing the second organic chemistry course, Ryan was fortunate to join Professor Ruppel's research group in the summer of 2012. Over the next two years, he synthesized Carbohydrate-Bacteriochlorin Conjugates for their potential use in targeted photodynamic therapy. Working alongside Professor Ruppel, Ryan learned how to conduct research and what it meant to do science. Following that summer, he realized that research was his passion, and he officially switched his major to chemistry with aspirations of pursuing a Ph.D. in organic chemistry.

For their work, Ryan was awarded the Magellan Scholarship and presented his group's research as a poster at the 245th and 247th American Chemical Society National Meetings. Ryan was granted several awards/scholarships in his time at Upstate including, the National Sciences and Engineering Scholarship, the Contec, Inc. Chemistry Scholarship, and the USC Upstate's and ACS Western Carolina's Most Outstanding Chemistry Major Awards. In 2014, Ryan graduated from USC Upstate cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree.

Following graduation from Upstate, Ryan joined Andy McNally's lab at Colorado State University (CSU) where he focused on Site-selective Functionalizations of Azines and Polyazines

via Heterocyclic Phosphonium Salts. His work has been published in journals such as the Journal of the American Chemical Society, Angewandte Chemie, and Synlett. The methodologies that Ryan and his group developed have direct applications in the pharmaceutical sciences, thus inspiring him to pursue a career in process chemistry.

At the beginning of 2020, Ryan graduated from CSU with a Ph.D. in organic chemistry and accepted a position as a Staff Scientist in the Pharma Services Group at Thermo Fisher Scientific in Greenville, SC. There he synthesizes a wide array of active pharmaceutical ingredients for their use in various treatments and therapies. The medicines that he and his team develop have the potential to treat people with serious or life-threatening diseases and save lives.

Ryan states, "I owe a debt of gratitude to the chemistry department at USC Upstate. I received an education that prepared me very well for my graduate studies and provided the fundamentals I needed to start my career in chemistry. The skills, exposure, and lessons I learned while attending Upstate were invaluable and shaped the chemist and person I am today."

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Katheryn Duley

While in school, I avoided additional student loans by living at home with my mom and working full time to pay my tuition and textbook costs. During my final semester of college, I was in school full-time, working 2 full-time jobs, a part-time internship, and volunteering in SMA (Student Marketing Association).

I received the Upperclassman Excellence in Service Leadership Award in Spring 2018, the BB&T Emerging Leaders Certification in Fall 2018 and was on the Dean's List 2017-2018. I graduated from USC Upstate in December 2018 with my bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in marketing. I would not have been able to accomplish all my goals at The George without support from Professor Kim Land, Dr. Elise Harvey, or Sarah Butler. Not only did they help while I was in college but have since helped me after graduation and I could not be more grateful.

Prior to and immediately after graduation, I applied for several jobs. In April 2019, I secured the position of Marketing Coordinator for Gerber Childrenswear. In this role, I am responsible for all SMS, Affiliate, and Loyalty marketing strategies, product reviews for retailers like Walmart, Target, and BuyBuyBaby, assisting both in-studio and on-location photoshoots, in-house marketing research, and maintaining digital advertising efforts with Walmart, Target, and our B2C website. In my work, it is imperative to understand your audience, keep up with current trends, monitor programs through analytical KPIs (key performance indicators), and most importantly, be humble.

In addition to working at Gerber Childrenswear, I help local businesses grow through improved marketing strategies. I enjoy working with small businesses because they are imperative to our Spartanburg community. Through this work I have recreated websites, improved social strategies, increased Google Analytics performance, managed email marketing, and strategized marketing calendars. My favorite aspect of working with small businesses is helping a person thrive at what they love doing and producing. I am passionate about marketing, and I am extremely thankful for all the opportunities I have been given.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Candace Lamb



Originally from Greenville, South Carolina, Candace Lamb (she/her/hers) received a B.A. in Non-Profit Administration and Psychology with a minor in Women's and Gender Studies from USC-Upstate and a M.Ed. in College Student Personnel from the University of Louisville.

For several years, Candace was an Assistant Director of Career Services at the University of Louisville, specializing in diverse student populations, such as LGBTQ+ students and students with disabilities, engineering majors, and first-generation college students. Candace also created Career Peers, a peer mentoring and advocacy program for first-generation and low-income college students.

In May 2021, Candace completed her PhD from the University of Texas at Austin, where she studied the experiences of LGBTQ+ staff members in higher education. Currently, Candace currently works at CUNY School of Public Health and Policy in New York City, as the director of the Career Skills Academy at a professional development program for underrepresented graduate students.

NON-TRADITIONAL SPOTLIGHT: ALISSA MERTEL

My experience as a student at the University of South Carolina Upstate has been truly incredible. I have been instructed and guided by very encouraging and highly knowledgeable professors that demonstrate deep care for student success.

I feel extremely fortunate to be a USC Upstate non-traditional student returning in a full-time capacity to pursue a path to higher education and career enhancement. As a Holistic Health Coach, mindfulness practitioner, and certified yoga instructor, I have worked with children in a supportive coaching capacity by teaching mindfulness-based practices including yoga, meditation, and breathing exercises. In coaching sessions and afterschool classes, topics that support personal well-being, including positivity, resilience, and self-compassion, are also discussed. The additional skills and knowledge that I am acquiring along this experiential path of obtaining a more specialized education has been extremely valuable and has enhanced the quality of coaching services that I will be able to provide.

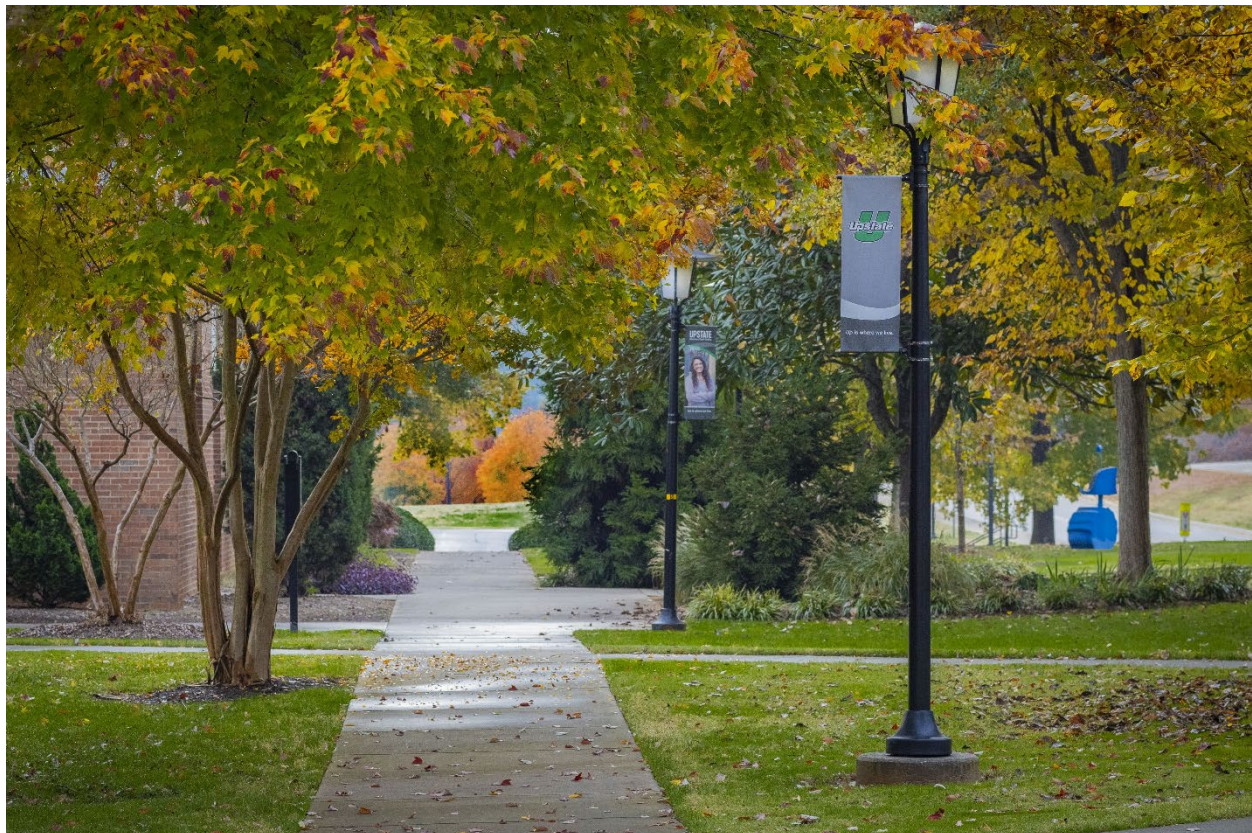


After I complete my Bachelor of Science Degree in Experimental Psychology this spring, I will continue my education in graduate school and will strive to develop a professional helping career within my local community. My intention is to deliver services in a clinical setting that provide a deeper awareness of necessary strategies and therapeutic interventions that can promote personal well-being for children and adolescents.

During my time at USC Upstate, I have also discovered a special interest in conducting psychological research. Currently, under the guidance and mentorship of my advisor, Dr. Christa Christ, I am conducting research funded by a Magellan Scholar award from the University of South Carolina to measure the effectiveness of mindfulness-based interventions at reducing grief related to non-death loss associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. This invaluable opportunity has equipped me with a deeper understanding of the research process and offered an educational platform to apply the knowledge I have gained from my courses.

Because of the abundance of experiential learning opportunities available, I have also had the enriching opportunity of completing a Psychology internship where I engaged directly with teen residents from a local community non-profit organization that provides services and resources to families in need of support. In this role, I was able to offer wellness workshops for the residents on topics including mindfulness, goal-setting, and other valuable subjects that support positive life experiences. Additionally, due to the variety of student scholarship and financial award opportunities available, it has been my privilege and honor to be the recipient of the Dr. John B. Edmunds, Jr. Endowed Scholarship and to have been awarded a student assistantship in the Psychology Department.

I am certain that my experiences at USC Upstate have positively propelled me onto a path that will allow me to achieve my educational and professional goals. With the support and guidance of the team of professors and the exceptional personnel at USC Upstate, I am optimistic about the possibilities ahead and feel well-prepared for each step along the way. With gratitude for my experience at USC Upstate, I am enthusiastically looking forward to all that I will learn and accomplish in the coming years.



NON-TRADITIONAL SPOTLIGHT: LAUREN SEABROOK HANSON



Lauren Seabrook Hanson is a non-traditional student majoring in History with a Communications cognate. Over the summer, Lauren conducted research for the Smithsonian's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage on Indigenous use of American Ginseng, which is part of a larger ongoing project for the Center.

She loves to learn, research, travel anywhere and everywhere, explore antique stores and museums, is a sucker for sci-fi and fantasy. Additionally, she enjoys camping and hiking with her husband, three teenagers, and fur babies (dogs). Lauren aspires to continue her academic career by earning a master's degree in Public History with a

Museum Studies certificate at USC Columbia but is also exploring the possibility of an advanced degree in Folk Studies at other universities. In the meantime, she is excited to have the time (upon graduation) to be able to volunteer for local organizations that help disadvantaged members of our community.

NON-TRADITIONAL SPOTLIGHT: ANA PAULA RODRIGUES MOORE

I am originally from Brazil and have lived in the United States for 20 years. Daily, I gain motivation for continuing my education from God, who has gifted me with a wonderful husband and daughters. My family is my top supporter; without their encouragement, I would not try my best to achieve my goals.

Since my first semester at USC Upstate, my professors have watched me grow academically and supported me beyond my expectations. Investing in languages has always held a special place in my heart and allowed me to identify with different cultures, languages, and their speakers. I have shared classrooms with many different students and professors from different countries and ethnicities.

Through this opportunity, I have gained cultural perspectives in several topics such as family, religion, academics, life in the US, life in the Upstate, Latin America and Spain Literatures, Latin America and Spain cultures, and socio-cultural topics.

USC Upstate has helped me grow socially and professionally. My linguistic growth, especially my proficiency in Spanish, has allowed me to become a better speaker, writer, reader, and interpreter in my mother language, Portuguese, and even in English. Currently, I teach ESOL at Boiling Springs High School, which fulfills my heart, for I learned English as an adult after coming to the US. After graduation, I look forward to renewing my teaching contract and officially becoming the Boiling Springs High School ESOL instructor. I follow my passion through teaching English Language Learners and am inspired to become a better professional.

