



## Chancellor's Corner



**Dr. Susan A. Elkins, Chancellor**  
USC Palmetto College

**A**s we conclude this historic fifth fall semester of service together in Palmetto College, please accept my deepest thanks to all of you for your outstanding leadership and service to Palmetto College!

It is such a privilege to work with you as we continue to develop the new and innovative Palmetto College concept and organization, creating additional opportunities for our students, faculty, and staff. I know we are all deeply committed to the shared Palmetto College vision of having thriving campuses and online opportunities that provide greater access, affordability, and flexibility to students across this state in completing both associate and bachelor's degrees.

This newsletter provides an excellent opportunity to highlight some of the successes of our work together as we conclude our fifth fall semester of service as Palmetto College. You will see numerous student, faculty, and staff successes from the past few months throughout the newsletter while I focus this column on overall Palmetto College

*Chancellor's Corner, continued page 12*

## 2018 Niche rankings place USC Lancaster #4 two-year campus in the United States Lancaster, Sumter ranked #1 and #2 in S.C., respectively

**U**SC Lancaster has been ranked as the Number One two-year campus in South Carolina and the Number Four overall two-year campus in the nation by niche.com. USC Sumter is ranked Number Two in the state.

Niche analyzes 3,461 colleges to create rankings and Niche Grades for all aspects of campus life, including academics, student life and value. These rankings and grades are based on rigorous analysis of academic, admissions, financial and student life data from the U.S. Department of Education along with millions

of reviews from students and alumni.

The complete list is available at <https://www.niche.com/colleges/search/best-community-colleges/>

Niche is a website that facilitates the discovery of schools and neighborhoods for its users through analysis of dozens of public data sets and millions of reviews to produce comprehensive



rankings, report cards and profiles for every K-12 school, college and neighborhood in the United States.

The 2018 Best Colleges ranking is based on a rigorous analysis of academic, admissions, financial and student life data

from the U.S. Department of Education along with millions of

*Niche College Rankings, continued page 4*

## USC Sumter varsity eSports team named to ESPN Top 50 List

Originally printed in *The Item* (Sumter, S.C.)

**I**t's the biggest sport you may have never heard of. Colleges and universities across the U.S. have teams for the sport that is not played on a field or in a gym. Players don't even touch an actual ball or racket.

While most of the about 50 schools that participate have teams organized in unofficial clubs, University of South Carolina Sumter's varsity team was among one of the first groups to join what has become a digital craze.

Varsity eSports teams, or organized competitive video gaming, have coaches, recruit players, use a dedicated facility to play and practice in, are part of a national collegiate association, broadcast games and even offer

scholarships to students.

Kris Weissmann, USC Sumter's team coach and eSports director, said the college has close to 30

students in the program who are on three teams that each compete in one-game video games called "League of Legends," "Overwatch" and "Hearthstone."

Students are called "gamers," and the program is housed under the Student Services umbrella at USC Sumter, not the Fire Ants Athletics Department.

USC Sumter has the only official

varsity team in South Carolina, Weissmann said. Other schools, such as USC and Clemson, have club-level teams.



Although organized online and offline competitions have long been part of the video game culture, participation and spectatorship has surged in popularity just within the last

decade, according to Weissmann.

Led by professional events with large prize pools in sports arenas

*USC Sumter eSports, continued page 6*

## Hunter retires after 40-year career with USC Palmetto College and its precursors

David B. Hunter's first full-time job at the University of South Carolina came 39 years ago following the recommendation of a visiting team from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC); he actually began working in the precursor to Palmetto College as a graduate assistant a year earlier.

It is fitting that in his present role as associate chancellor for planning assessment and student success for Palmetto College, he closes out his career working on SACSCOC compliance and assessment reporting for the four Palmetto College institutions, Palmetto College Online and Extended University.

Hunter said that he will miss the people with whom he has worked on the multiple campuses in the USC System, and the uniqueness of a job that is based in Columbia, but incorporates working with multiple campuses. He has found it rewarding to be able to provide and assist them in preparation for SACS reporting.

Hunter points out the fact that his career might seem like an anomaly to someone just entering the profession who might look toward working at several different institutions in their career.

"I've not only been at one institution, but the same division for 40 years," he said.

During his tenure with Palmetto College and its predecessors (i.e., Regional Campus, System Affairs, etc.), he has had only three supervisors: Susan Elkins, Chris Plyler and John Duffy.

"Dr. Duffy, my first boss, once referred to me as the division's 'utility player,'" said Hunter. "And, that's the role that I've assumed in my career."

That adeptness as a utility player has included that faculty role that he



David B. Hunter

relishes just as much as his administrative duties within Palmetto College. Hunter has taught, initially on campus, then point-to-point and, now, completely online. He currently teaches management courses for Palmetto College's liberal studies degree program.

"I have always enjoyed teaching, and I've discovered a talent and enjoyment for reaching students through the online medium," said Hunter. "It also keeps me grounded and reminds of the mission of this division over several decades. We work to assist those who are 'landlocked' within the state to attain a higher education."

Though Hunter is set to "officially" retire on Dec. 31, his status will change from full-time to part-time starting in 2018.



## Burgin receives the Wilkerson Award in Academia

Archivist Brent Burgin received the Wilkerson Award in Academia from the American Indian Party on Saturday, Oct. 7.

The award acknowledges the exceptional efforts of non-American Indians who have made extraordinary contributions to the American Indian community through either public service, journalism, academia or philanthropy.

Named for the Wilkerson family, a Cherokee family with deep connections to South Carolina, as well as connections to North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee and Oklahoma,

*Wilkerson Award, continued page 4*

## About USC Palmetto College Connections



### This Issue's Contributors

Jane Brewer, Jean Carrano, Walt Collins, Jason Darby, Chris DeWolf, Shana Dry, Bob Dyer, Susan Elkins, Misty Hatfield, Paige Ivey, Angela O'Neal, Annie Smith, Michael Sonntag, Alice Taylor-Colbert, Connie Vise, Summer Yarborough

**Please submit all items for the Spring 2018 issue by Monday, April 9, 2018.**

The **USC Palmetto College Connections** newsletter is published biannually, at the conclusion of the spring and fall semesters.

If you have an interesting story to share with the USC Palmetto College community, please share the news with the communications contact for your respective area:

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# Spotlight on Scholarship

## Kunka, Elliott named Palmetto College Fall 2017 scholars

USC Palmetto College has recognized two authors – Andrew Kunka and Julia Elliott – as the Fall 2017 first- and second-quarter scholars, respectively.

The Fall 2017 first-quarter scholar is **Andrew Kunka**, professor of English at USC Sumter, who provides a complete guide to the history, form and contexts of autobiographical comics in his newly published book.

Kunka's *Autobiographical Comics* helps readers explore the increasingly popular genre of graphic life writing in an accessible and easy-to-navigate format. The book, published by Bloomsbury, covers such topics as: the history and rise of autobiographical comics; cultural contexts; key texts; and important theoretical and critical approaches to autobiographical comics.

*Autobiographical Comics* includes a glossary of critical terms, annotated guides to further reading and online resources and discussion questions to help students and readers develop their understanding of the genre and pursue independent study.

In 2009, he and several friends created the popular Twitter feed @FakeAPStylebook, which parodies grammar rules and journalistic practices. The popularity of the feed led to the publication of *Write More Good: An Absolutely Phony Guide to Writing*, published by Three Rivers Press in 2011. *Write More Good* received positive reviews from *The New Yorker*, *Library Journal*, *Kirkus Review* and many major newspapers.

Kunka currently serves as the Division Chair for Arts and Letters and Humanities, Social Sciences and Education at USC Sumter. He was named Palmetto College's Fall 2017 First Quarter Scholar.

The Fall 2017 second-quarter scholar is **Julia Elliott**, associate professor of women and gender studies in Extended University. She is also the inaugural recipient of the Denise R. Shaw Excellence in Scholarship Award for Palmetto College Campuses.

A prolific writer and essayist, Elliott's work often explores feminist epistemologies and philosophies of science. She gained national attention as a short story writer in 2012 as one of six emerging American women writers to win the Rona Jaffe Writer's Award. She was

also named an Amazon Writer in Residence at Shared Worlds in 2016.

Elliott is the author of *The Wilds*, a 2014 short story collection, and *The New and Improved Romie Futch*, a 2015 novel.

*The Wilds*, was chosen by *Kirkus*, *BuzzFeed*, *Book Riot*, and *Electric Literature* as one of the Best Books of 2014 and was a *New York Times Book Review* Editors' Choice. Teetering between the ridiculous and the sublime, this genre-bending debut collection blends Southern gothic strangeness with dystopian absurdities, sci-fi speculations, and fairy-tale transformations.

*The New and Improved Romie Futch* is a finalist for the Southern Independent Book Association's Prince of Tides Award.

Elliott has also appeared in interviews in nationally prominent media outlets, and her work has been featured in publications including *The New York Times* and *O, The Oprah Magazine*.

Elliott's writing has appeared in *Tin House*, *The Georgia Review*, *Conjunctions*, *The New York Times*, *Granta* online, *Electric Literature*, and other publications. She has won a Rona Jaffe Writer's Award, and her stories have been anthologized in *Pushcart Prize: Best of the Small Presses* and *The Best American Short Stories*.

She is currently working on a novel about Hamadryas baboons, a species she has studied as an amateur primatologist.



Andrew J. Kunka



Julia Elliott



/PalmettoCollege



@PalmettoCollege

## Wilkerson Award,

*continued from page 2*

the award was presented at the McMahon Fine Arts Center in Charlotte.

This is the first year the award has been given by the Carolinas-based American Indian civil rights organization. Robert Greeson, Chair of the American Indian Party, said that Burgin's name was mentioned during a board meeting discussion after several board members toured the Native American Studies Center.

"They were all quite impressed with the Center, as well as the important work that Burgin is doing for the American Indian community," said Greeson. "The importance of his work as it relates to the preservation of our people's history, traditions & culture is quite profound."

Burgin has won awards on both national and state levels before, including the American Folklore Society and the South Carolina Archival Association.

The Wilkerson Award presentation was held as part of the Inaugural Charlotte American Indian Artist Showcase, featuring pottery, paintings, arts and crafts, cultural presentations, and more.

## Poetry workshops build students' confidence, help other subjects

USC Sumter English Professor

Ray McManus was recently featured on South Carolina Public Radio regarding poetry workshops that he conducts for students across South Carolina.

The segment on *South Carolina Focus*, identifies McManus as a poet who can't sit still.

He travels the state conducting workshops in poetry much as a missionary would. But the message he brings to the people – that is, students from elementary to high schools – is that poetry isn't the exclusive realm of artsy, smart people; it's accessible to everyone, and it's already in their lives if they take notice. When students read poetry they've written, he says, their confidence increases, and the



discipline learned in writing poetry spills over into other subjects, from math to science, as a Midlands teacher and one of her students attest.

Listen to the entire *South Carolina Focus* segment at <http://southcarolinapublicradio.org/post/sumter-professor-poetry-workshops-build-students-confidence-help-other-subjects>

## USC Sumter gains Bronze Military Friendly® ranking

USC Sumter has once again been named a "Military Friendly®" School. For 2018, the campus earned a "Bronze" ranking. In addition, USC Sumter is one of only 15 schools in South Carolina to receive the Military Friendly® ranking, and the sole USC Palmetto College institution. A list of all the South Carolina schools and their rankings can be found at <http://militaryfriendly.com/schools/>

The data used to evaluate and determine Military Friendly® designations and awards are sourced from three categories: public data sources, proprietary data from a survey conducted by Military Friendly® Schools' parent organization Victory Media and personal data from surveys of

veterans themselves. VM's Military Friendly® Advisory Council then gives guidance including diverse perspective on methodology. Data is processed through a pre-determined algorithm. The results are audited by Ernst

& Young and are subsequently published.

The Military Friendly® ratings program was started in 2003 as an advocacy vehicle to encourage civilian organizations to invest in programs to recruit, retain and advance veterans as employees, entrepreneurs and students. By providing a benchmark to aim for, by posting a "score," this

program has encouraged civilian organizations who previously didn't care about recruiting veterans to do so.



## Niche College Rankings,

*continued from page 1*

reviews from students and alumni.

Niche also grades institutions on several other factors, including: academics (35 percent), value (25 percent), professors (10 percent), student life (7.5 percent), student surveys on overall experience (7.5 percent), campus (5 percent), diversity (5 percent), local area (2.5 percent) and safety (2.5 percent). The student surveys are self-reported by Niche users. A detailed explanation of methodology can be found at <https://about.niche.com/methodology/best-colleges/>

In addition, to the Niche Best Colleges rankings, USC Sumter was named 2017 Readers' Choice Winner for "Best College" by readers of *The Item*. This was the 15th year USC Sumter has won this honor.

## Spotlight on Faculty

# Born to teach: Shelley Jones creates new ways for Palmetto College students to get the full learning experience

By Paige Ivey, University Communications and Public Affairs

Shelley Jones says teaching is not only in her blood — both parents were educators — but has been a part of her life since childhood.

“I come from educators. My mom was an English teacher,” says Jones, an assistant professor of English in Extended University and Palmetto College. “But I’ve also been very fortunate to have had some excellent English teachers throughout my life who saw the potential in me before I saw it. They were vocal about it, very encouraging and motivating, definitely inspirational.”

Jones brings more than a love of revision and genre in Romantic Era poetry. She also is a problem-solver. When she saw that some of her Palmetto College students would benefit from an alternative to the required internship course, Jones created a service-learning class that could provide comparable learning outcomes.

Students had been required to spend 140 hours on-site — about 10 hours a week — for the internship class.

“For a lot of our students, that wasn’t necessarily doable or it could cause strain,” Jones says. “A lot of our students are returning for goals that aren’t related necessarily to their careers. We have a good contingent of retirees. We also have students who are not necessarily getting their degrees for career advancement or to develop a new career, but they have academic or personal goals.

“So the service learning course I developed meets that particular student need while rising to the same rigor as the internship course — even though it is 40 hours instead of 140 hours — because we add research and writing to the experiential learning.”

That course was a first of its kind at the university, says Chris Nesmith, associate provost for Palmetto College.

“While there are other classes across the university that incorporate service learning into their curriculum, Dr. Jones has developed the first course at USC which has service learning as its primary course content,” Nesmith says. “Not only did she work to propose and develop this course, but she also worked with others across the university, including the Office of Student Engagement and the Center for Teaching Excellence.”

The new course has required a whole new skillset for Jones, including creating partnerships with community organizations that work with students at a distance.

“So instead of working on-site, students can do their work on their own time as long as they’re meeting deadlines,” she says. “But if they’re in their pajamas or after putting their

kids to bed or getting off their second-shift job, they are able to then complete the work when it fits with their schedule.”

But there is another piece of the puzzle

for Jones and that is to create graduates with an understanding of community service and how it can fit into even the busiest schedules.

“One of the unstated goals of my class is, despite their full lives and their workloads and their family commitments and their school work, these students can find meaningful ways to serve their larger communities,” Jones says.

Winning the Garnet Apple teaching award so early in

her career — she has been on the tenure track only since 2015 — has been an honor, she says, especially if it brings attention to the innovative work she and her colleagues are doing at Palmetto College.

“The successes that I have had I owe to the communities that are around me — my colleagues in Palmetto College and my students, as well.”

Retrieved from [http://www.sc.edu/uofsc/posts/2017/07/teaching\\_award\\_garnet\\_apple\\_shelley\\_jones.php](http://www.sc.edu/uofsc/posts/2017/07/teaching_award_garnet_apple_shelley_jones.php)



Shelley AJ Jones

## USC Columbia online Elementary Education degree completion program ranked #6 in nation



The online bachelor’s degree completion program in Elementary Education offered by USC Palmetto College through USC Columbia’s College of Education has been ranked Number Six in the nation by BestColleges.com for 2017.

The rankings reflect the most recent data compiled from IPEDS and the College Navigator, both of which are hosted by the National Center for Education Statistics. Their goal is to objectively assess relative quality based on academic outcomes, affordability and the breadth and depth of online learning

opportunities. USC, like the other institutions featured in the list, were ranked on a 100-point scale. The categories on the scale include academic quality (50 percent), affordability (25 percent) and online programming (25 percent).

The Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education was one of the seven original online bachelor’s degree completion program offerings through USC Palmetto College at its Fall 2013 launch. The total of online degree completion programs has risen to 14 in the ensuing years.

## USC Sumter eSports, *continued from page 1*

that draw millions of online viewers, eSports has become an entertainment industry.

Most colleges were slow at first to meet demand for a collegiate version, but interest is growing as more schools see a chance to benefit from the industry's growth, according to The Associated Press.

Robert Morris University in Illinois launched the first college varsity eSports team in 2014.

Weissmann said USC Sumter and about 20 other schools across the U.S. jumped on board with teams in 2015, when the National Association of Collegiate eSports was created. He said the college's dean, Michael Sonntag, thought an eSports varsity team could increase exposure for USC Sumter and expand activities available for students.

Other small colleges – both public and private – have shared a similar perspective, Weissmann said.

The varsity eSports program at USC Sumter has grown in each of its three years in both the number of students who participate and video games they compete in, Weissmann said. The college is looking to add its fourth and fifth games next year, he said.

The college streams portions of its competitions online and practices through a platform called Twitch, which Weissmann described as "YouTube strictly for gaming." Other USC Sumter students help promote the team and competitions on social media.

The college holds fundraisers to offer partial scholarships for the gamers, Weissmann said. He said he doesn't get into the debate of whether eSports is a sport. He said he treats it like one – teams compete, and students must attend practices and maintain a certain



GPA. The program benefits students similar to any other sport - gamers learn the value of teamwork, camaraderie and competition.

"It's just as competitive and just as viewed as other sports, so it's kind of hard not to consider it a sport," Weissmann said. "It just depends on what your definition on what a sport is."

He said eSports is even being considered for the Olympics.

The national collegiate association says interest is growing daily by colleges and universities. Weissmann, 33, said he grew up playing video games and probably had every console – Nintendo, PlayStation, Xbox. He said he would have been "ecstatic" if an eSports program was available while he was in college.

He said the program meets the current generation of high schoolers where they're at and that it could entice kids to go to college.

"Some kids may never go to school, but if they see this they might change their mind," Weissmann said. "They might say, 'Hey, I can do that and get an education. Maybe make Mom and Dad happy because I am going to school and getting a degree, but I am also doing something I want to do.'"

USC Sumter student and eSports Team Captain Clark McDaniel said he has enjoyed the opportunity to compete on the team.

"Being able to play with other like-minded people in a game that I love to play has been fun," McDaniel said. "It's been a good outlet to meet other people."

## Williams ranked among 25 Best Off-Season Coaching Hires

USC Salkehatchie Head Men's Basketball Coach Jake Williams has been named as one of the Best 25 Off-Season Head Coaching Hires for the 2017-18 season by CoachStat.net.

CoachStat.net is a comprehensive ranking of men's college basketball coaches in a variety of categories throughout the basketball season. The list takes into consideration the coaches' fit for their university, community, athletics department, their program needs, coaching ability, recruiting and more.

In its description of Williams, CoachStat.net shares that "The uncanny work ethic of this true visionary has had an immediate impact, especially in recruiting. Basketball passion in combination with his infectious personality have led him to lots of wins over the last four years with many more to come."

Conference play for the basketball team begins Jan. 24, 2018.



*USC Salkehatchie Head Men's Basketball Coach Jake Williams is ranked among the Best 25 Off-Season Head Coaching Hires by CoachStat.net*

# Spotlight on Athletics

## New sports add character to the USC Sumter campus

With students from Colorado, Brazil and even Australia, the new NJCAA sports at USC Sumter add a sense of energy and character to the campus. USC Sumter introduced men's soccer and women's golf this past summer with seasons starting Fall 2017. Although the coaches were a little late to the recruiting game, they were able to pull off successful inaugural seasons and expose students to their first taste of collegiate athletics. Recruiting is in full swing for 2018 for both sports.



## USC Union Bantam Athletic Signing Day

The University of South Carolina held "Signing Day" for new 2017-2018 Bantam athletes on Nov. 1 in the auditorium. Men's soccer coach Zach Simmons, a USC Union graduate, recruited and signed 13 players for his 2017-2018 team. The team will practice and host games at the Union County YMCA soccer field. Lady Bantam softball coach Amanda Warley signed eight players for her 2017-2018 team. City Park on Main Street is now the home of the USC Union Lady Bantams softball team. Coach Warley previously served as head softball coach at Patrick Henry Community College and assistant head coach at Florence Darlington Tech, where she led both teams to NCJAA region championships. A season schedule for all teams will be announced at a later date.



The 2017-2018 Men's Soccer Team signees include: (Front row) Benjamin Darnell, Hillcrest High School, Simpsonville, S.C.; Jack Snelgrove, Clinton High School, Clinton, S.C.; Gregory Zayn Sutton, Buford High School, Lancaster, S.C.; Blaine Gossman, Buford High School; Jose Pimentel, Union County High School, Union, S.C.; Vincente Ramirez, Union County High School, Union, S.C.; John Addison, Union County High School; Curtis Blake Johnson, Union County High School; Brandon Smith, Wade Hampton High School, Greenville, S.C.; Luke Edward Redding, Christian Homeschool of Union County; (Back row) Tate Anders, Wren High School, Piedmont, S.C.; Cameron Yelton, Dreher High School, Columbia, S.C.; (Not pictured) Zackary Curlee, Hillcrest High School.



The 2017-2018 Lady Bantam Softball signees include: DeAsia Fisher, Lancaster High School, Lancaster, S.C.; Kenndra Hughes, Broome High School, Spartanburg, S.C.; Kristen Davis, Chester High School, Chester, S.C.; Nicole Perry, Summerville High School, Summerville, S.C.; Danielle Bradley, White Oak High School, Jacksonville, N.C.; Montana Walton, Swansboro High School, Swansboro, N.C.; Kyleigh Collins, Scotland Christian Academy, Laurinburg, N.C.; (Not pictured) Summer Clinton, Lancaster High School, Lancaster, S.C.



## USC Lancaster Native American Studies Center celebrates fifth anniversary

Opening its doors in 2012, the Native American Studies Center has attracted thousands of visitors from around the state, the country and the world to downtown Lancaster, S.C. Its four galleries, archaeology lab, archives and other amenities have attracted everyone from pre-school groups to seasoned scholars.

On Oct. 5, 2017 USC Lancaster celebrated the fifth anniversary of the center. Visitors to the NASC between October 2016 and September 2017 number 8,170 – making the total for the first five years 37,675 visitors. The Center also reached its goal of raising over \$10,000 to establish an endowment for Center operations and programs that further their mission.

The mission of the USC Lancaster Native American Studies Center is to promote the documentation, preservation, appreciation and study of Native American cultures and heritages. This mission is aided by courses and curricula, research projects, archival resources, exhibits, publications and other public educational programs and materials developed by USCL

faculty and staff. The center works to dispel any stereotypes or existing misconceptions regarding Native Americans, their cultures, life ways and languages.

The USC Lancaster Native American Studies Center has received support from the City of Lancaster, USC Lancaster, the Educational Foundation of USC Lancaster, and Duke Energy. Programming has been supported by grants from the South Carolina Arts Commission, the S.C. Humanities Council; the National Endowment for the Arts, the Offices of the USC Provost and Vice President for Research, the S.C. Budget and Control Board, the Lancaster County Council of the Arts, the S.C. Department of Archives and History and the Charlotte Area Educational Consortium.

The USC Lancaster Native American Studies Center is located at 119 S. Main St. Lancaster, S.C.

For more information on the Center, visit [http://www.sc.edu/about/system\\_and\\_campuses/lancaster/study/student\\_opportunities/native\\_american\\_studies\\_center/index.php](http://www.sc.edu/about/system_and_campuses/lancaster/study/student_opportunities/native_american_studies_center/index.php).

## NASC Artist-In-Residence, Native American activist Will Goins dies

Dr. Will Goins, who had just begun an artist-in-residence program at USC Lancaster's Native American Studies Center, died Sunday, Nov. 12, in Columbia after a heart attack. He was 57.

Goins was a well-known and outspoken social activist, artist, writer, singer-songwriter and performer. He had been in Columbia attending the Native American Film Festival, which he founded there 20 years ago.

"He wanted to speak for all of the unspoken people who didn't think they had voices," said Elsie Goins, his mother. "He was that voice for many people...."

"He was a very giving person," she said. "He'd do anything for anybody. He would go the extra nine yards to fulfill any commitment he had."

William Moreau Goins grew up in Washington, D.C. He received his bachelor's degree in anthropology and communications from George Washington University, and his master's in education and a doctorate in anthropology from Pennsylvania State University.

He lived in Columbia and was long active in South Carolina's Native American community. When Goins first moved to the state 20 years ago, he immediately became involved in advocacy. At that time, the state's only recognized tribe was the Catawbas.

Goins was responsible for getting South Carolina to recognize the official observance of National Native American Indian Heritage Month.

Goins was also active for years at the USCL Native American Studies Center.

"Dr. Will M. Goins was an artist, activist, advocate, anthropologist, actor, folklorist and so much more," said Chris Judge, assistant director of USCL's Native American Studies Center.

"He contributed to the Native American Studies Center in a plethora of ways, including as an adviser, lecturer, panelist, performer and most recently as



our fall 2017 artist-in-residence.

"He spent the final full day of his life in our classroom... showing films from his 20th Annual Native American Film Festival of the Southeast to USC students, faculty and members of the Lancaster community," Judge said.

Goins also spent 29 years in the communications field, serving as a freelance correspondent for numerous magazines, newspapers and small tribal publications.

He was the 2016-17 president of Interfaith Partners of South Carolina, and the chief executive officer of the Eastern Cherokee, Southern Iroquois & United Tribes of South Carolina Inc.

In 2008, the S.C. General Assembly, the S.C. Arts Commission and the University of South Carolina's McKissick Museum awarded Goins the Jean Laney Harris Folk Heritage Award, recognizing his lifetime achievement in traditional arts.

"He loved people and he loved what he did," his mother said. "He was very passionate about people."

Reprinted from *The Lancaster News*. Retrieved from <http://www.thelancasternews.com/content/native-american-activist-dr-will-goins-dies-57>

## INNERSOLE, USC Palmetto College partner to award new sneakers to children in campus communities

The child in the Allendale elementary school gymnasium eagerly opened his bag and found a new pair of sneakers. Like his classmates he was excited to receive the shoes, which were awarded to their class for completing a challenge that measured their improvement during the school year.

The mid-November 2017 event, sponsored by USC Salkehatchie and INNERSOLE, is part of a larger initiative among USC Palmetto College campuses.

INNERSOLE partnered with USC Palmetto College in the Fall of 2016 to help enhance the educational experience for students in Title I schools in counties where Palmetto College has a campus location.

“Currently the joint collaboration is active in Allendale, Sumter and Union, with plans to add Lancaster,” said Angela O’Neal, INNERSOLE director of operations. “The students in the participating schools in each county compete in the EDUCATE MY SOLE challenge.”

EDUCATE MY SOLE, a challenge for second- through sixth-grade classrooms with an emphasis on attendance – accompanied by a deep commitment to ensuring that students are engaged in the classroom. The challenge focuses on four areas: academics, attendance, behavior and reading. The winning classroom at each grade level with the highest measurable improvement will receive a new pair of “prized” sneakers at the end of each grading period. The challenge is enhanced by the student volunteers from USC Palmetto College campuses who serve as mentor and lunch buddies for the



students. The monies raised on each campus are earmarked for the purchase of the brand new “prized” sneakers; which are presented at the nine week celebrations.

INNERSOLE is a nonprofit organization that provides new sneakers to children who are homeless and children who are in need. The national (and international) initiative makes a difference in the lives of children by starting the school year off with a new pair of sneakers. The organization was established by Dawn Staley, USC head women’s basketball coach, and Rene McCall Flint.

“Kids these days want to feel good about themselves in school,” Staley said. “They

want to not have to walk down the halls and see that they don’t have what some other students have. It creates that feeling sometimes that they are less than someone else, and it’s a whole self-esteem issue.

“We don’t want any child to have that feeling,” Staley continued. “From that, there are barriers that you are breaking down - learning barriers. Basketball has really been so great to me. Now, I want somebody else to find their niche in life and live out their passion.”

Learn more about INNERSOLE and the EDUCATE MY SOLE challenge at [www.innersole.org](http://www.innersole.org).



## USC Sumter, local farmers’ market connect campus and community



In an effort to open the campus to the community, USC Sumter partnered with the local farmer’s market to provide a location for vendors to sell their farm-to-table goods to residents. Items like organic meats, honey, handmade bird houses, local grown produce and more can be found each Friday on the campus grounds.

## Taylor-Colbert appointed to SC Humanities board

**A**lice Taylor-Colbert, director of innovation for USC Palmetto College and history professor, has been selected to serve a three-year term on the board of directors of South Carolina Humanities.

The council is a statewide nonprofit and the state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities. It presents and/or supports literary initiatives, lectures, exhibits, festivals, publications, oral history projects, videos and other humanities-based experiences that directly or indirectly reach more than 250,000 citizens annually.

In 2018, SC Humanities will celebrate 45 years of serving South Carolinians.

SC Humanities funds, promotes, counsels, and coordinates all manner of thoughtful (and thought-provoking) endeavors

– documentaries, discussion forums, research, planning, workshops, dramatizations, lectures, and on and on – that pertain to the humanities.

Humanities disciplines include history, literature, folklore, philosophy, comparative religion, archaeology, African American studies, Southern studies, linguistics, ethics, jurisprudence, political science, anthropology, international studies, art theory and criticism and Women's Studies.

The Board of Directors of SC Humanities consists of volunteer academic and public members. Board members initiate and develop projects, seek to make the humanities accessible statewide and take active roles in fundraising.



*Alice Taylor-Colbert*



## Palmetto College Board of Visitors

**T**he USC Palmetto College Board of Visitors gathered in November 2017 for their biannual meeting. The board members represent the interests and the surrounding communities of the individual USC Palmetto College Campuses, Extended University and Palmetto College Online.



**Palmetto College IT directors, staff gather for first hands-on IT training day**

**T**he USC Palmetto College Information Technology directors and staff from USC Columbia, USC Lancaster, USC Salkehatchie, USC Sumter and USC Union gathered on Friday, Oct. 3, for Palmetto College's first hands-on IT training day. The session provided training on new technology available to IT personnel at the University of South Carolina.

Attendees included (from left): Bryce Mobley (USC Columbia), Ely Yonce (USC Columbia), Brian Canty (USC Lancaster), Ray Potts (USC Salkehatchie), Zach Davis (USC Salkehatchie), Antonio Mackey (USC Lancaster), Brian Smith (USC Sumter), Gayle Walsh (USC Salkehatchie), Jeremy Black (USC Union), Blake Faulkenberry (USC Lancaster), Bob Thompson (USC Sumter), Keith Camp (USC Union), Bob Dyer (USC Columbia).



## USC Salkehatchie receives funding, opens nursing simulation lab

**T**he USC Salkehatchie/USC Columbia joint-Bachelor of Science in Nursing program with has received grants to fund a state-of-the-art nursing simulation lab on the USC Salkehatchie Walterboro Campus. USC Salkehatchie and Colleton Medical Center – with support from Hospital Corporation of America, Colleton County, BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation, Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina and the Fullerton Foundation – have completed the installation of the lab and BSN students on the Salkehatchie campus are able to experience clinical situations by simulation for repetitive practice before being placed in a real-life situation, which better prepares them for those situations.

# Spotlight on Philanthropy



Sergeant First Class Danyale Howard and Staff Sergeant Taravea Baskett were awarded the Robert V. Phillips Palmetto College Military Endowed Scholarship by USC Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins in an October luncheon. The students are two of the five inaugural recipients scholarship, which provides additional financial support to veterans and active duty personnel to complete their degrees.

## Phillips Military Endowed Scholarship meets “last-dollar” need for active duty USC Palmetto College students

At an October 2017 scholarship luncheon, four students were awarded scholarships as the inaugural recipients of the Robert V. Phillips Palmetto College Military Endowed Scholarship. Named for decorated WWII veteran Bob Phillips, the scholarship was established by his family to ensure that veterans and active duty personnel would have additional financial support to complete their degrees.

Four of the inaugural recipients are enrolled in the Fort Jackson associate degree program and include: Staff Sergeant Oscar Ortega, Staff Sergeant Tarevea Baskett, Sergeant First Class Danyale Howard and Sergeant Nicole Lawas. A fifth recipient, Sergeant Angela Vinasco, is enrolled in USC Palmetto College’s Liberal Studies bachelor’s degree completion program. All five are active duty soldiers.

To be eligible for the scholarship, the recipients were required to be active duty service members, National Guard or reserve members, veterans or spouses of active duty service members. They were also required to be enrolled in the Fort Jackson Associate Degree program or the USC Palmetto College online degree completion program. A “last-dollar” scholarship, the Phillips fund pays the remaining balance of their tuition and fees

after Federal Tuition Assistance or veterans benefits are applied.

Bob Phillips was born on Oct. 8, 1920, in Spartanburg, S.C. He graduated from Spartanburg High School with honors in 1938. Knowing it would be a financial burden on his parents to pay for him to attend college, he applied for and accepted a railroad position which had been recommended to him by his father.

After World War II began, Robert V. (Bob) Phillips was drafted on Oct. 5, 1942. He rode a bus to Fort Jackson and began his active duty service in the United States Army on Oct. 19, 1942. He was promoted several times and rose to the rank of Technician Fifth Grade. After training at several bases, his unit, the 377th Infantry Regiment (part of the 95th Infantry Division), was ordered to deploy to England. They traveled aboard the *USS West Point* departing on Aug. 9, 1944. They arrived at Liverpool Harbor and were transported to Southampton, England, where they were loaded onto Liberty cargo ships. The Regiment landed via LCTs at Omaha Beach on Sept. 13, 1944. Phillips’ unit fought in Northern France, the Rhineland and Central Europe. After the war was over, they were assigned to and assumed occupational control

of Recklinghausen, Germany. The Regiment departed the battered port of Le Havre, France, on June 20, 1945, aboard the *USS William H. Gordon* arriving in Newport News, Va., on June 28, 1945.

Phillips was awarded the American Campaign Medal, WWII Victory Medal, Combat Infantryman’s Badge, Army of Occupation of Germany Medal, Honorable Service Lapel Button, the Good Conduct Medal and the Bronze Star.

Phillips was honorably discharged from the Army on Nov. 19, 1945. He returned to Spartanburg where he resumed his position at the railroad company and retired from what is now known as CSX after 45 years of service.

Even though Bob Phillips did not have the opportunity to obtain a college education, he strongly encouraged his two daughters to pursue college degrees, and they did. He even encouraged – and ultimately convinced – his wife to obtain a college education, and she did.

Bob Phillips would be honored and proud to know a scholarship bearing his name will provide soldiers at Fort Jackson and other veterans of the United States Army the help they need to achieve a college education through the USC Palmetto College.

## Chancellor's Corner, *continued from page 1*

successes of the past semester and year since the Spring 2017 edition of the newsletter was published.

First, I'm delighted to share very positive news on Fall Semester 2017 enrollment. As of the Oct. 26 census, Palmetto College overall headcount enrollment for the campuses was up from the final day last year by 200, 4.32%, (from 4,626 to 4,826) and FTE enrollment was up by 157, 5.15%, (from 3,050 to 3,207) over Fall Semester 2016, resulting in the largest percentage increases of all the USC campuses. For comparison, the overall USC System increase was 2.05% in Headcount and 2.23% in FTE.

In addition to the associate degree enrollment, the Palmetto College Online degree completion headcount enrollment as of the Oct. 26 census was 984, compared to a final headcount last fall of 806, for a 22.08% increase, nearing the 1,000 mark. Palmetto College Online has also graduated 877 students as of Spring Semester 2017 and is on track to reach 1,000 graduates this year.

Our students continue to amaze us with their many accomplishments, as you see every day on your campuses and in your communities!

Second, regarding our stellar faculty, in 2016-17 extensive faculty scholarly activity included 116 scholarly works, 33 grants, 149 presentations/exhibits/productions, 54 creative activities, 14 awards and 87 other activities, including discipline-based consultations, editorships, and serving as reviewers. Additionally, congratulations to a very successful 2016-17 Tenure and Promotion Class that included Michael Bonner, Associate Professor of History, and Kaetrena Kendrick, Associate Professor, Librarian, from USC Lancaster; Kajal Ghoshroy, Full Professor of Biology, Hayes Hampton, Full Professor of English, and Hennie van Bulck, Full Professor of Business; and Randy Lowell, Associate Professor of Psychology and Christine Sixta Rinehart, Associate Professor of Political Science from USC Union. Finally, we welcome new faculty for 2017-2018.

A third accomplishment that involved many of you across the campuses, along with outstanding leadership from Dr. David Hunter and the Campus Deans and Academic Deans, was the completion of the Palmetto College

submission required for the SACSCOC Five-Year Interim Review. Following more than a year of diligent work, the University was notified on Dec. 7 of the reaffirmation of accreditation, with no monitoring required. Mr. Donald Miles, the USC SACSCOC liaison, chaired the effort and is to be commended for his excellent leadership as well. Many thanks to Dr. Hunter and all of those involved on behalf of Palmetto College.

In closing, the outstanding accomplishments across Palmetto College mentioned above are but a few of the many accolades achieved by our excellent students, faculty, and staff. As we progress throughout this historic year, we will continue to compile data and review our successes over our first five years, as well as plan for a successful future together for Palmetto College through the development of the Carolina 2023 Strategic Plan. I look forward to working with all of you as we continue to enhance our Palmetto College Campuses and Online programs.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to work with each of you, as well as for all of your many contributions to Palmetto College and our students!

### University of South Carolina Palmetto College

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