



University of South Carolina



# Alma Mater

“WE HAIL THEE, CAROLINA”

*(Tune: Flow Gently, Sweet Afton)*

We hail thee, Carolina, and sing thy high praise;  
With loyal devotion, rememb'ring the days,  
When proudly we sought thee, thy children to be;  
Here's a health, Carolina, forever to thee!

G.A. Wauchope





University of South Carolina

*Commencement Exercises*  
*Conferring of Doctoral Degrees*

December 15, 2025

Koger Center for the Arts

# Today's Ceremony

Welcome to the University of South Carolina on this day of special recognition of our doctoral candidates for graduation. We hope you will find this ceremony — a culmination of the efforts of faculty, administration, our students, and their families — both meaningful and impressive.

While awaiting the start of the ceremony, you may wish to read the historical note on South Carolina's oldest university on the following pages. There follows a brief description of the Carolina Mace, symbol of the university's immortal dignity and of the combined endeavors of the university community, as well as a detailed description of the academic costumes worn by members of the processions and our candidates for graduation.

The exercises will begin with a series of academic processions. They are headed by the university mace, followed by doctoral candidates and faculty escorts, representatives of the university faculties, deans, members of the university Board of Trustees, and the university president.

When the president closes the ceremony following the awarding of all degrees, the audience is asked to rise for the singing of the Alma Mater, after which the platform party will recess. The words of the song were penned by Professor George Wauchope of the English Department in 1911 and were adopted in 1912. The tune is that of "Flow Gently, Sweet Afton." "Here's a health, Carolina!" is a phrase which is repeated in Carolina's Alma Mater. Over the years, the custom has arisen of raising the right hand, with the fingers cupped, when the phrase "Here's a health, Carolina!" occurs, as if offering a toast. The Alma Mater is always sung with heads uncovered.

Following the conclusion of the ceremony a reception for doctoral candidates, their guests, and the faculty will be held in the lobby.

Once again, welcome to the Fall 2025 Doctoral Commencement Exercises of the University of South Carolina.

# Order of Exercises

## PRESIDING

Dr. Michael D. Amiridis  
*President*

## PRELUDE

University of South Carolina Faculty Brass Quintet

## PROCESSIONS

The University Mace  
The Doctoral Candidates and Faculty Escorts  
The University Faculty  
The University Deans  
The University Board of Trustees  
The President

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

Mr. Grant Ebert  
*Doctoral Degree Student in Music Performance, School of Music*

## INVOCATION

The Reverend Adam Venters  
*Director, Baptist Collegiate Ministry*

## OPENING REMARKS

The President

## INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

Dr. Lara Lomicka Anderson  
*Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Studies, Graduate Studies,  
and The Graduate School*

## **REMARKS**

Dr. Jeffery L. Twiss

*Associate Dean for Research, McCausland College of Arts and Sciences*

## **PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES**

Dr. Mary Anne Fitzpatrick

*Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost*

## **CONFERRING OF DEGREES**

The President

## **HOODING AND RECOGNITION OF CANDIDATES**

Dr. Anderson

and

The Major Professor Escorting Each Candidate

Music by University of South Carolina Graduate String Quartet

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

The President

## **ALMA MATER**

Mr. Ebert

## **RECESSIONAL**

University of South Carolina Faculty Brass Quintet



# UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The university is governed on behalf of the people of South Carolina by a Board of Trustees. Sixteen trustees are elected by the General Assembly, one from each judicial circuit. There are three ex officio members, including the governor of South Carolina or a designee, the state superintendent of education

and the president of the University of South Carolina Alumni Association. There is also one at-large gubernatorial appointee. The president of the Student Government and the chair of the Faculty Senate serve as nonvoting members of the board.

The current composition of the board is as follows:

Henry D. McMaster Governor of South Carolina <i>ex officio Chair</i>	C. Dan Adams Gubernatorial Designee	Richard A. Jones Jr. Gubernatorial Appointee	John C. von Lehe Jr. 9th Judicial Circuit
Thad H. Westbrook 11th Judicial Circuit <i>Chair</i>	W. Michael Bond USC Alumni Association	Hubert F. Mobley 6th Judicial Circuit	Ellen E. Weaver Superintendent of Education
Rose Buyck Newton 14th Judicial Circuit <i>Vice Chair</i>	Coleman Floyd Buckhouse, M.D. 12th Judicial Circuit	Leah B. Moody 16th Judicial Circuit	Charles H. Williams II 1st Judicial Circuit
C. Dorn Smith III, M.D. 3rd Judicial Circuit <i>Chair Emeritus</i>	Alex English 5th Judicial Circuit	Emma W. Morris 10th Judicial Circuit	Stacey Bradley Interim Secretary
	Brian C. Harlan 8th Judicial Circuit	Reid T. Sherard 13th Judicial Circuit	Liam Hein Faculty Senate Chair
	Henry L. Jolly Jr., D.M.D. 7th Judicial Circuit	J. Strom Thurmond Jr. 2nd Judicial Circuit	Courtney Tkacs Student Body President

## COMMITTEE ON COMMENCEMENT

Courtney Buzan and Dana Woodward, <i>Co-Chairs</i>			
Anthonia Awhinawhi	Valerie Gerfin	Karen Magrader	Alec Shettle
Elaine Belesky	Laveta G. Gibson	Aaron Marterer	Elizabeth Suddeth
Pamela Bowman	Eric Grabski Sr.	Kimberley Massey	Marie Spell
Stacey Bradley	Cary Graham	Dale Moore	CJ Tamasco
Ashley Dantzler	Liam Hein	Diane Parham	Nate Terracio
Curt Derrick	Doug Helms	Garrick Queen	Courtney Tkacs
Barrington Duvall	Marissa James	Kirk Randazzo	J. Rex Tolliver
Anna Edwards	Sidney Kenyon	Joe Sasso	

## ANNOUNCER

Brett Williams  
*Department of Student Life  
Division of Student Affairs*

## MUSICIANS

USC Faculty Brass Quintet  
*Prelude and Recessional*

USC Graduate String Quartet  
*Hooding Ceremony Accompaniment*

USC Jazz Strings  
*Reception Accompaniment*

## UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA UNIVERSITY OFFICERS

Michael D. Amiridis, Ph.D., *President*  
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Daniel J. Heimmermann, Ph.D., *Chancellor, USC Aiken*  
Al M. Panu, Ph.D., *Chancellor, USC Beaufort*  
Walter H. Parham, J.D., *General Counsel and Executive Director of Compliance Programs*  
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Scott Verzyl, Ph.D., *Vice President for Enrollment Management and Dean of Undergraduate Admissions*  
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Julian R. Williams, J.D., *Vice President for System Affairs and Community Engagement*  
Craig Wilson, Ph.D., J.D., *Chancellor, Palmetto College*

## UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC OFFICIALS

Lara Lomicka Anderson, Ph.D., *Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Studies, Graduate Studies, and The Graduate School*  
Jeannette O. Andrews, Ph.D., *Dean, College of Nursing*  
David Banush, M.L.I.S., *Dean, University Libraries*  
Angela C. Baum, Ph.D., *Interim Dean, College of Education*  
Teri Browne, Ph.D., *Dean, College of Social Work*  
Courtney Catledge, D.N.P., *Palmetto College Campus Dean, USC Lancaster*  
April R. Cone, D.N.P., *Palmetto College Campus Dean, USC Salkehatchie*  
M. Ron Cox Jr., Ph.D., *Palmetto College Campus Dean, USC Columbia*  
Stephen J. Cutler, Ph.D., *Dean, College of Pharmacy*  
Hossein Haj-Hariri, Ph.D., *Dean, Molinaroli College of Engineering and Computing*  
C. Tayloe Harding Jr., D.Mus., *Dean, School of Music*  
Gerald Harmon, M.D., *Interim Dean, School of Medicine Columbia*  
Thomas E. Hodges, Ph.D., *Interim Dean, McCausland College of Arts and Sciences*  
William C. Hubbard, J.D., *Dean, Joseph F. Rice School of Law*  
Randy Lowell, Ph.D., *Palmetto College Campus Dean, USC Union*  
Steven Lynn, Ph.D., *Dean, South Carolina Honors College*  
Phyllis MacGilvray, M.D., *Dean, School of Medicine Greenville*  
Shannon Means, M.P.A., *Vice Provost for Academic Administration*  
Jennifer Ng, Ph.D., *Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Dean of the Faculty*  
Tom Reichert, Ph.D., *Dean, College of Information and Communications*  
Eric Reisenauer, Ph.D., *Interim Palmetto College Campus Dean, USC Sumter*  
Tara Sabo-Attwood, Ph.D., *Dean, Arnold School of Public Health*  
Michael Sagas, Ed.D., *Dean, College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management*  
Samuel Y. Todd, Ph.D., *Vice Provost and Associate Vice President for Global Affairs*  
Rohit Verma, Ph.D., *Dean, Darla Moore School of Business*

## CAROLINA — A HISTORICAL NOTE

### “FAITHFUL INDEX TO THE AMBITIONS AND FORTUNES OF THE STATE”

The Palmetto State established South Carolina College on December 19, 1801, as part of an effort to unite South Carolinians in the wake of the American Revolution, promoting “the good order and harmony” of the state. The founding of South Carolina’s state college was also part of the Southern public college movement spurred by Thomas Jefferson. Within 20 years of one another, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia established state-supported colleges.

In the antebellum era, the Palmetto State generously supported South Carolina College. Its faculty included noted European scholars, such as Francis Lieber and Thomas Cooper, as well as renowned American scholars John and Joseph LeConte. Offering a classical curriculum, South Carolina College became one of the South’s most influential colleges, earning a reputation as the training ground for South Carolina’s antebellum elite.

South Carolina’s secession from the Union unleashed the devastation of the American Civil War, and the state and South Carolina College paid dearly. The institution closed for want of students, and in the ensuing decades, it struggled to regain its former status.

As Reconstruction from the Civil War proceeded, the state’s General Assembly chose the first African Americans to serve on the university’s Board of Trustees in 1868, and in 1873 the first Black students enrolled. While politically controversial, this development was an extraordinary opportunity at a time when opportunities for higher education were rare. The University of South Carolina became the only Southern state university to admit and grant degrees to African American students during the Reconstruction era.

Following the end of Reconstruction in 1877, South Carolina’s conservative leaders closed the university. They reopened it in 1880 as an all-white agricultural college, and during the next 25 years, the institution became enmeshed in the state’s political upheaval. South Carolina went through several reorganizations in which the curriculum changed and its status shifted from college to university and back again. The university also struggled to adjust to the arrival of intercollegiate athletics in 1892 and the admission of white women in 1894.

In 1906, the institution was rechartered for the final time as the University of South Carolina. In 1917, it became South Carolina’s first state-supported college or university to earn regional accreditation, and the 1920s brought the introduction of new colleges and degree programs, including the doctorate.

The Great Depression temporarily stalled progress, but the outbreak of World War II launched an era that transformed the university. South Carolina hosted

naval training programs during the war, and enrollment more than doubled in the postwar era as veterans took advantage of the G.I. Bill. In the 1950s, the university began recruiting national-caliber faculty members and expanded its footprint with the establishment of campuses across South Carolina.

In 1963, the University of South Carolina became desegregated. As the result of a federal court order, Henrie D. Monteith, Robert Anderson and James Solomon became the first Black students to enroll at the university in the 20th century. Minority enrollment would continue to grow in their wake and was complemented by a substantial international student population in subsequent decades.

At the same time, the university was undergoing explosive growth as the baby-boom generation entered college. Enrollment stood at 5,660 in 1960 but nearly quadrupled 20 years later. That increase in the student body was accompanied by the introduction of many new programs, including three that would prove to be momentous.

University 101 became a national model for cultivating freshman-year success; the accompanying National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition is based at the university. The international Master of Business Administration program, also launched in the 1970s, has consistently ranked among the country’s top three such programs. The honors program blossomed into the South Carolina Honors College and is hailed among the nation’s finest.

As the result of concerted efforts to expand its research capabilities, the university in 2006 was designated by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as a research institution of “very high research activity,” the foundation’s highest classification. The university is one of a select number of public universities to receive both the Carnegie Foundation’s top-tier research designation and community engagement designation.

South Carolina’s Bicentennial Campaign helped usher in the 21st century as the university celebrated a 200-year legacy of educating leaders for the state, the nation and the world. In recent years, the University of South Carolina system has launched an online degree-completion program through Palmetto College. Together with the college’s four campuses across the state, the online program offers students greater flexibility to complete coursework and speeds bachelor’s degree completion. These comprehensive programs have helped the university secure its place as a first-choice destination for students seeking the lifelong value of a quality higher education experience.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

The Graduate School was established in 1906 by an act of the General Assembly. The act transformed the South Carolina College, which had celebrated its centennial in 1905, into the University of South Carolina. During its first century the institution had awarded more than 100 master's degrees and one Ph.D., but graduate study had been highly individualized rather than systematic. The new Graduate School began its work in fall 1906 under the direction of a Graduate Committee chaired by Dr. George Wauchope, the beloved author of the USC Alma Mater. Only the master of arts degree was offered during the next 17 years as enrollments increased and degree requirements were refined.

In 1922 President W. S. Currell resigned to accept the newly created position of Dean of The Graduate School. During the next six years Dean Currell gave The Graduate School the boost it needed. Graduate student head count during the academic year tripled, averaging around 150 in the latter part of the decade; and hundreds of teachers attended the summer schools that began in 1923. Ph.D. programs were established

in English, history, and education. When Dean Currell stepped down and the highly respected English Professor Reed Smith succeeded him in 1929, the future of The Graduate School seemed assured. But in the early 1930s the Great Depression turned back the clock. Enrollments declined, and only 11 Ph.D. degrees were awarded before inadequate funding in 1934 necessitated a moratorium on Ph.D. admissions that lasted for 10 years.

After the Second World War, The Graduate School entered a growth phase that lasted more than four decades. The number of students increased steadily until enrollment leveled off around 10,000. The number of doctoral programs (excluding the purely professional J.D., M.D. and Pharm.D.) grew to 56, and the master's to 156. Degrees awarded annually in the late 1990s and later have averaged around 1,600 master's and 275 doctorates. Much of this growth has taken place in the science departments and the various professional colleges and schools that developed over the years.

## ACADEMIC COSTUMES

The academic costumes worn in today's procession and at other formal university occasions trace their origins to those worn by faculty members and students at medieval European universities. With only minor modifications, these costumes have remained largely unchanged since the 16th century. Standards for colleges and universities in the United States were established in 1895 with the adoption of an intercollegiate code that specifies design and color appropriate for various degrees. As in medieval times, the costumes worn on formal academic occasions denote the wearer's academic heritage.

The modern academic costume consists of three parts: the gown or robe, a headpiece and a hood. The gown denotes the wearer's level of education.

The baccalaureate gown is the simplest in design. Usually black, it is distinguished by a wide yoke with shirring in front and back and by open, flowing sleeves that end in a point. The baccalaureate gown is worn closed.

The master's gown is similar to the baccalaureate gown except that it has a closed or glove sleeve that is open at the wrist. The master's gown has no other trim and may be worn either open or closed.

The doctoral gown is full-flowing and has large, bell-shaped sleeves. It is trimmed with velvet panels down the front and has velvet bars on the sleeves. While black is still the predominant color for doctoral gowns, the trim may be in a color that denotes the wearer's discipline, or the color of the gown may denote the wearer's university. The University of South Carolina's doctoral gown is garnet with black velvet panels and bars. The university seal is embroidered on the panels. In today's procession, this gown is worn by the members of the Board of Trustees and university officers, chancellors, deans, faculty members and administrators.

The mortar board is the headpiece most often worn at American universities for formal occasions. It is appropriately worn with the board flat on the top of the head and with the tassel falling from the left quarter of the board. Tassel colors denote the field or discipline in which the wearer's degree was earned. Doctoral tassels are often gold. The soft velvet Tudor cap is also worn by many who hold the doctorate.

While the gown and headpiece denote the wearer's level of education, it is the hood that adds meaning and dimension to the academic costume. Changed little since medieval times, the hood is worn falling from the shoulders, down the back of the gown in a display of vivid color. It is edged in velvet, which by its color denotes the field or discipline in which the wearer's degree was earned, and it is lined in two colors of silk that represent the college or university from which the degree was earned. Hence, the University of South Carolina hood is lined in garnet and black and edged with the appropriate discipline color.

The USC president's ceremonial gown is black with four garnet velvet bars on the sleeves and garnet velvet panels down the front, all trimmed with antique-gold cording. The university seal is embroidered on the panels. Presidents are the only academics entitled to wear the fourth bar on their sleeves. The president's regalia is completed by a black velvet doctoral tam with an antique-gold tassel. The ceremonial hood is edged in garnet velvet and lined with garnet-and-black silk, representative of the University of South Carolina.

A partial listing from the Intercollegiate Code for colors signifying disciplines follows:

Arts, Letters, Humanities: white  
Accountancy, Business, Commerce: drab  
Education: light blue  
Engineering: orange  
Fine Arts: brown  
Journalism: crimson  
Law: purple  
Library Science: lemon  
Medicine: green  
Music: pink  
Nursing: apricot  
Pharmacy: olive green  
Philosophy: dark blue  
Physical Education: sage green  
Physical Therapy: teal  
Public Health: salmon pink  
Public Service: peacock blue  
Science: golden yellow  
Social Science: cream  
Social Work: citron

## THE UNIVERSITY MACE AND PRESIDENT'S MEDALLION

The University Mace was designed and fashioned by Leslie Durbin, distinguished silversmith of London, England. Academic maces are historically regarded as manifestations of the “immortal dignity” of universities and thus represent the past, present and future. Officially adopted in 1967, the mace was presented to the university as a memorial to Susan Richardson Guignard by an alumnus, Dr. George Curry.

The brilliantly gleaming silver-and-gilt mace is nearly four feet long. Mounted on the head are the seal of the university, the seal of the State of South Carolina and the Great Seal of the United States. From the middle of these arises a stylistic representation of the State Tree, the palmetto, the fronds of which are formed by a group of 13 stars representing the founding colonies, which include South Carolina. The shaft is decorated with eight stars, reminding us that South Carolina was the eighth state to enter the Union.

The University Mace is carried in procession on occasions of outstanding importance, such as commencements, convocations and formal dedications. The placement of the mace on its stand signals that the proceedings are about to come to order; its retirement indicates the conclusion of the exercises. The mace is carried in procession by the president of Student Government and escorted by the university chaplain and representatives of the faculty, emeriti, alumni, the Board of Trustees and the university community at large.

The significance of the mace is mirrored in the Presidential Medallion and Chain of Office, which designate the wearer as the temporary embodiment of the institution's power and authority. The gift of the medallion accompanied the gift of the mace, and the linked silver Chain of Office was commissioned in 1991 by the Presidential Candidate Search Committee.

## THE CAROLINIAN CREED

The community of scholars at the University of South Carolina is dedicated to personal and academic excellence. Choosing to join the community obligates each member to a code of civilized behavior.

Allegiance to these ideals requires each Carolinian to refrain from and discourage behaviors which threaten the freedom and respect every individual deserves.

As a Carolinian...

I will practice  
personal and academic integrity;

I will respect  
the dignity of all persons;

I will respect  
the rights and property of others;

I will discourage  
bigotry, while striving to learn from  
differences in people, ideas, and opinions;

I will demonstrate  
concern for others, their feelings, and their need for  
conditions which support their work and development.

































# PRESIDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Jonathan Maxcy <i>President, 1804-1820</i>	William Spenser Currell <i>President, 1914-1922</i>
Thomas Cooper <i>President pro tem, 1820</i> <i>President, 1821-1834</i>	William D. Melton <i>President, 1922-1926</i>
Robert Henry <i>President pro tem, 1834</i> <i>President, 1841-1845</i>	Leonard T. Baker <i>Acting President, 1926</i> <i>President, 1931-1936</i> <i>Acting President, 1944-1945</i>
Henry Junius Nott <i>Chairman of the Faculty, 1834-1835</i>	Davison M. Douglas <i>President, 1927-1931</i>
Robert W. Barnwell <i>President, 1835-1841</i> <i>Chairman of the Faculty, 1865-1873</i>	J. Rion McKissick <i>President, 1936-1944</i>
William C. Preston <i>President, 1845-1851</i>	Admiral Norman M. Smith <i>President, 1945-1952</i>
Francis Lieber <i>President pro tem, 1851</i>	Francis W. Bradley <i>Acting President, 1952</i>
James H. Thornwell <i>President, 1851-1855</i>	Donald S. Russell <i>President, 1952-1957</i>
Charles F. McCay <i>President, 1855-1857</i>	Robert L. Sumwalt <i>Acting President, 1957-1959</i> <i>President, 1959-1962</i>
Augustus B. Longstreet <i>President, 1857-1861</i>	Thomas F. Jones <i>President, 1962-1974</i>
Maximilian LaBorde <i>Chairman of the Faculty, 1861-1865</i>	William H. Patterson <i>President, 1974-1977</i>
Benjamin B. Babbitt <i>Chairman of the Faculty, 1873-1875</i>	James B. Holderman <i>President, 1977-1990</i>
Anson W. Cummings <i>Chairman of the Faculty, 1875-1877</i>	Arthur K. Smith <i>Interim President, 1990-1991</i>
William Porcher Miles <i>President, 1880-1882</i>	John M. Palms <i>President, 1991-2002</i>
John M. McBryde <i>Chairman of the Faculty, 1883-1891</i> <i>President, 1883-1891</i>	Andrew A. Sorensen <i>President, 2002-2008</i>
James Woodrow <i>President, 1891-1897</i>	Harris Pastides <i>President, 2008-2019</i> <i>Interim President, 2021-2022</i>
Frank C. Woodward <i>President, 1897-1902</i>	Robert L. Caslen Jr. <i>President, 2019-2021</i>
Benjamin Sloan <i>Acting President, 1902-1903</i> <i>President, 1903-1908</i>	Michael D. Amiridis <i>President, 2022-present</i>
Andrew C. Moore <i>Acting President, 1908-1909</i> <i>Acting President, 1913-1914</i>	
Samuel Chiles Mitchell <i>President, 1909-1913</i>	

# Degrees in Course

The following list of candidates for graduation was prepared before final grades were reported and inclusion herein does not constitute evidence of graduation. The listing of a name in this program should not be construed as an indication that the person will in fact receive a degree from the University of South Carolina at this commencement.

Conversely, the absence of a student's name from this list does not necessarily mean that the person will not be awarded a degree.

An asterisk (\*) following a candidate's name indicates the student is a graduate from a previous term.

## MCCAUSLAND COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Andrea Noemi Acosta Caballero  
*Anthropology*  
B.A., University of Kansas  
M.A., University of West Florida  
*Behind the Gens: A Bioarchaeological Study of Kinship Structure and Social Change in Iron Age Latium, Italy*  
Co-Directors: Drs. Carlina de la Cova and Kristina Killgrove

Matthew Olaide Ariwoola  
*Chemistry*  
B.S., University of Ibadan  
M.S., University of South Carolina  
*Studies of Zwitterionic Metal Complexes: Reactions of Alkynes with Metal Carbonyl Compounds and Neutral Nucleophiles*  
Director: Dr. Richard Adams

Andres Felipe Arroyave  
*Spanish*  
B.A., M.A., University of South Carolina  
*Demonios, Nazis, Y Brujas en la Literatura Colombiana Del S. XXI: Un análisis Del Mal Cotidiano Y la Violencia Transpolítica en la Narrativa de Mario Mendoza*  
Director: Dr. Mercedes López-Rodríguez

Elizabeth Ann Bodalski\*  
*Clinical and Community Psychology*  
B.A., University of Richmond  
M.P.S., University of Maryland  
*The Effects of Physical Exercise on Emotion Dysregulation in Postsecondary Students with and without ADHD*  
Director: Dr. Kate Flory

Allison Noelle Brown  
*Geological Sciences*  
B.S., Florida State University  
*Molybdenum Systematics of Subducted Lithologies from the Western Alps*  
Director: Dr. Besim Dragovic

Jonathan Brent Butler\*  
*English*  
B.A., M.F.A., University of South Carolina  
*Invention beyond the Author*  
Director: Dr. Christina Friend

Annaline Bethany Cely  
*Comparative Literature*  
B.A., University of South Carolina  
M.A., Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary  
*Origen of Alexandria on Canticles: Exegeses and Homilies as Forming Christian Identity*  
Director: Dr. Paul A. Miller

Wendy Chu\*  
*Clinical and Community Psychology*  
B.A., Macalester College  
M.A., University of South Carolina  
*Examining Mental Health Providers' Differential Sensitivity to Youth and Caregiver Treatment Engagement Problems by Studying Clinical Decision-Making Behaviors*  
Director: Dr. Kimberly Becker

Irene Dalla Costa\*  
*Biological Sciences*  
B. S., M.S., University of Verona  
*The Role of G3BP1 Modifications in Modulating Axonal RNA Translation*  
Director: Dr. Jeffery Twiss

Travis Kelly Deason\*  
*Chemistry*  
B.S., University of South Carolina  
*Synthesis of Inorganic Actinide Compounds with Neptunium, Plutonium, and Americium*  
Director: Dr. Hans-Conrad zur Loye

Trinity Hope Depatie  
*Biological Sciences*  
B.S., Florida Atlantic University  
*How and Why the Novel Personate Morphology Evolved in Penstemon Wildflowers*  
Director: Dr. Carolyn A. Wessinger

Makayla Joy Gibson\*  
*Psychology*  
B.A., University of South Carolina  
*Cerebellar Contributions to Speech and Clinical Outcomes in Stroke: A Multimodal Investigation of Structural Integrity across Chronic and Acute Cohorts*  
Director: Dr. Christopher Rorden

Margot Pauline Habets\*  
*Geography*  
B.S., Tulane University  
M.S., University of South Carolina  
*Incorporating Temporality and Place in Actionable Resilience Metrics*  
Director: Dr. Susan Cutter

Nicolas LeRoy Harder\*  
*Sociology*  
B.A., M.A., University of South Carolina  
*Heuristics and Cultural Competition: How the Status of Cultural Objects Are Formed and How Status Influences Competition*  
Director: Dr. Matthew Brashears



Qingyuan Hong\*  
*Statistics*  
 B.S., Shanghai Jiaotong University  
 M.S., Rutgers University  
*Bayesian Logistic Regression with Pooled Biomonitoring Data*  
 Director: Dr. Dewei Wang

Kaitlen Hubbard\*  
*Criminology and Criminal Justice*  
 B.A., Concord University  
 M.A., University of South Carolina  
*From Threat to Harm: An Examination of the Escalation of Domestic Violence Incidents in South Carolina*  
 Director: Dr. Christi Metcalfe

Erin Evelyn Hunt\*  
*Clinical and Community Psychology*  
 B.S., Fordham University  
 M.S., University of South Carolina  
*Self-Regulation in Children with Fragile X Syndrome: Biobehavioral Underpinnings, Familial Predictors, and Outcomes*  
 Director: Dr. Jane Roberts

Niti Ashvinkumar Jani\*  
*Biological Sciences*  
 B.S., Gujarat University  
*Effects of Commonly Prescribed Antibiotics on the Risk of Early Onset Colorectal Cancer*  
 Director: Dr. Maria Marjorette Pena

Patrick Thomas Justen  
*Chemistry*  
 B.S., University of Kansas  
*Improved Extraction and Detection of Disinfection Byproducts, and Impacts of Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfires on Drinking Water*  
 Director: Dr. Susan Richardson

Alexandros Kalogirou\*  
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 B.S., California State University Sacramento  
*Development of a Strategy to Neutralize CCL8 Activity and Ablate CCL8 Cellular Targets*  
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 B.S., Vietnam National University-Ho Chi Minh City  
 University of Natural Sciences  
 M.S., University of Tsukuba  
*Circannual and Kinship Cues Shape Reproduction and Epigenetic Aging in Peromyscus*  
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*Multiphysics Modeling, Analysis, and Design of Ceramic Hollow Fiber Membranes for Oxygen Separation*  
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 B.E., Kathmandu University  
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*Elevating Next Generation Wireless Devices towards Contactless Sensing for Healthcare Applications*  
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 B.Tech., Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad  
*Engineering Configurational Mimetic Osteogenic Peptides through Mesoscale Simulation and Machine Learning*  
 Director: Dr. Esmail Jabbari

Samuel Allen Dauchert  
*Electrical Engineering*  
 B.S., University of South Carolina  
*Multicopter Aerial Vehicle Morphology Design and Control*  
 Director: Dr. Xiaofeng Wang

Mohammad Jamal El Loubani\*  
*Mechanical Engineering*  
 B.E., M.E., American University of Beirut  
*Strain and Redox Engineering for Enhanced Thermoelectric Performance in Transition Metal Oxide Thin Films*  
 Director: Dr. Dongkyu Lee

Nihang Fu\*  
*Computer Science and Engineering*  
 B.S., Chongqing Jiaotong University  
 M.S., Northeastern University  
*Physics Oriented Deep Learning for Material Prediction and Generation*  
 Director: Dr. Jianjun Hu

Brennan Lawrence Gedney  
*Civil Engineering*  
 B.S., M.S., University of South Carolina  
*Early-Stage System Change Detection Using Physics-Based Damage Sensitive Features from B-Spline Signature Responses*  
 Director: Dr. Dimitris Rizos

Xiangyu Hu  
*Computer Science*  
 B.S., Xiamen University  
 M.A., University of Missouri  
*Multi-Perspective Feature Learning for Facial Expression Recognition in the Wild*  
 Director: Dr. Yan Tong

Aqarib Hussain\*  
*Electrical Engineering*  
 B.S., COMSATS Institute of Information Technology  
 M.S., Harbin Institute of Technology  
*Addressing Key Challenges in MHz Power Converters*  
 Director: Dr. Kristen Booth

Utkarshani Jaimini\*  
*Computer Science and Engineering*  
 B.Tech., LNM Institute of Information Technology  
 M.S., Wright State University  
*Causal Neuro-Symbolic: Synergy between Neuro-Symbolic and Causal Artificial Intelligence*  
 Director: Dr. Amit Sheth

Sivaji Karna\*  
*Mechanical Engineering*  
 B.E., Andhra University College of Engineering  
 M.S., Indian Institute of Technology Madras  
*Microstructure and Defects of AA6061 in the Laser Powder Bed Fusion Additive Manufacturing*  
 Director: Dr. Lang Yuan

Matthew Richard McCormick\*  
*Mechanical Engineering*  
 B.S., The Pennsylvania State University  
 M.S., University at Buffalo SUNY  
*A Foundation for Predictive Process Control Digital Twins in Smart Manufacturing and Industry 4.0*  
 Director: Dr. Thorsten Wuest

Byunghee Moon\*  
*Electrical Engineering*  
 B.S., M.E., Inha University  
*Generalized Dynamic Pole Placement Control for Voltage Source Converters with Inductive – Capacitive Output Filters*  
 Director: Dr. Herbert Ginn

Emmanuel Abiodun Ogunniyi\*  
*Mechanical Engineering*  
 B.E., Federal University of Technology  
 M.S., University of South Carolina  
*Reduced Order Model-Based Framework for Microsecond Model Updating of Two-Dimensional Structural Systems Using the Local Eigenvalue Modification Procedure*  
 Director: Dr. Austin Downey

Kaushik Roy\*  
*Computer Science*  
 B.E., RV College of Engineering Bengaluru  
 M.S., Indiana University Bloomington  
*Process-Grounded Knowledge-Infused Learning and Decision Making*  
 Director: Dr. Amit Sheth

Karan Deepak Shah  
*Mechanical Engineering*  
 B.E., The University of Sheffield  
 M.S., University of South Carolina  
*Determination of Tensile Strength of Single Carbon Fibers at Microscale Gage lengths*  
 Director: Dr. Subramani Sockalingam

Ge Song  
*Mechanical Engineering*  
 B.S., Nanjing University of Science and Technology  
 M.S., Boston University  
*Recognizing the Unexpected: Deep Learning across Complex Environments*  
 Director: Dr. Yi Wang

Jinyao Tang\*  
*Chemical Engineering*  
 B.S., University of Science and Technology of China  
 M.S., University of Twente  
*Electrochemically Active Liquid Organic Hydrogen Carriers for Energy Generation and Storage*  
 Director: Dr. Zhenmeng Peng

Frank David Thomas Jr.  
*Mechanical Engineering*  
 B.S., M.S., University of South Carolina  
*Rate-Dependent Interlaminar Shear Characterization in Solid State Extruded Ultrahigh Molecular Weight Polyethylene Film Composites*  
 Director: Dr. Subramani Sockalingam

Boyu Wang  
*Mechanical Engineering*  
 B.E., Tianjin University  
 M.S., University of Maryland  
*Understanding Cathode Behaviors in Aqueous Zn-Ion Batteries*  
 Director: Dr. Kevin Huang

Ruwan Wickramarachchige Don\*  
*Computer Science*  
 B.S., University of Colombo  
 M.S., Wright State University  
*A Neuro-Symbolic AI Approach to Scene Understanding in Autonomous Systems*  
 Director: Dr. Amit Sheth

Amarakoon Mudiyanseelage Thilini Ishanka Wijesiriwardene  
*Computer Science*  
 B.S., University of Colombo  
*Computational Analogies in the Era of Large Language Models*  
 Director: Dr. Amit Sheth

Rabins Wosti  
*Computer Science*  
 B.E., Tribhuvan University  
 M.S., University of South Carolina  
*New Approaches on Source Coding for Quantum Stochastic Sources and Implementation of Quantum Fanout Gate*  
 Director: Dr. Stephen Fenner



Ibrahim Yousif  
*Mechanical Engineering*  
 B.S., The British University in Egypt  
 M.S., University of South Carolina  
*AI-Driven Autonomous Manufacturing: A Novel Taxonomy, Vision-Guided Planning, and Diversity-Aware Active Learning Frameworks*  
 Director: Dr. Ramy Harik

Canyu Zhang  
*Computer Science*  
 B.S., Shandong University  
 M.S., New York University  
*Implicit Neural Representation for Image Reconstruction*  
 Director: Dr. Song Wang

## MOORE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Hoik Kim\*  
*Business Administration*  
 B.B.A., Keimyung University  
*Beyond Entertainment: Unveiling Digital Platform Strategic Implications for International Business Growth of Individual Entrepreneurs*  
 Director: Dr. Sali Li

Yu Li\*  
*Business Administration*  
 B.B.A., Sichuan University  
*Walking a Tightrope: Challenges for Corporate Sociopolitical Activism amidst Stakeholder Divides*  
 Director: Dr. Joao Albino-Pimentel

Sam Dylan Strizver\*  
*Business Administration*  
 B.A., University of Connecticut  
*The Other Side of Trusting: The Implications of Vulnerability as a Core Component of Organizational Relationships*  
 Director: Dr. M. Audrey Korsgaard

## COLLEGE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Rhys Rose Dreeszen Bowman\*  
*Library and Information Science*  
 B.A., Bennington College  
 M.L.I.S., Simmons University  
*Navigating Survival: Trans Adults' Information Practice in South Carolina*  
 Director: Dr. Vanessa Kitzie

Katherine Klein\*  
*Library and Information Science*  
 B.A., Hope College  
 M.L.I.S., Rutgers University  
*Information Literacy in Charter School Culture: An Institutional Ethnography*  
 Director: Dr. Jenna Spiering

Carmen Latrice Landy  
*Journalism and Mass Communications*  
 B.A., Howard University  
 M.P.H., Augusta State University  
*Using Media Screens for Prosocial Outcomes: Employing Mobile Devices and Gratitude Interventions to Impact Happiness in Adolescents*  
 Director: Dr. Mary Anne Fitzpatrick

Alexander Nicolas Vera  
*Library and Information Science*  
 B.A., M.L.I.S., University of South Carolina  
*Identifying and Understanding the Barriers to Sexual Health Information Seeking Experienced by Young Adults (Ages 18-26) Using Social Media*  
 Director: Dr. Vanessa Kitzie

Adetutu Oluwaseyi Wande-Kayode  
*Journalism and Mass Communications*  
 B.S., M.S., University of Lagos  
*Breast Cancer Communication for Young Women: Exploring Narrative Games as Vehicles of Transportation*  
 Director: Dr. Jungmi Jun

## COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Sarah Pace\*  
*Social Work*  
 B.A., Claflin University  
 M.S.W., University of South Carolina  
*Exploring Technology Use and Loneliness among Black Older Adults*  
 Director: Dr. Otis Owens

## COLLEGE OF NURSING

### DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

LaToria Bostick  
*Executive Healthcare Leadership*  
 B.S., College of Charleston  
 B.S.N., Georgia Southern University  
 M.S.N., University of South Carolina  
*Impact of a Mentorship Program on Retention in New Graduate Nurses*  
 Director: Dr. Leigh Pate

Keionda Crumblin Caldwell\*  
*Clinical Expert*  
 B.S.N., University of South Carolina  
*A Tailored Approach to PrEP Screening for Awareness and Readiness*  
 Director: Dr. Laura Herbert

Amanda Suzanne Clark\*  
*Clinical Expert*  
 B.S.N., M.S.N., University of South Carolina  
*Enhancing Glycemic Control, Patient Knowledge, and Self-Care through Structured Diabetes Education*  
 Director: Dr. Teresa Bowers

Ashley Tyner Divers\*  
*Clinical Expert*  
 B.S.N., University of South Carolina  
 M.S.N., University of Alabama Birmingham  
*Improving Completion of Diabetes Measures in Primary Care*  
 Director: Dr. Teresa Bowers

Kathryn Frankel  
*Executive Healthcare Leadership*  
 B.S., Shepherd University  
 M.S., Clemson University  
*Easing Transitions in Nursing Practice: A Nurse Practitioner Fellowship Accreditation Readiness Program Evaluation*  
 Director: Dr. Stephanie Schaller

Brittney Nichole Frazier  
*Clinical Expert*  
 B.S., Columbia College  
 B.S.N., South University  
 M.S.N., University of South Carolina  
*Reducing Heart Failure Readmissions at a Rural Hospital in South Carolina*  
 Director: Dr. Dwayne Alleyne

Kathleen Karen Gillard  
*Executive Healthcare Leadership*  
 B.S.N., Charleston Southern University  
 M.S.N., Saint Xavier University  
*Safe Patient Practice and Error Reporting*  
 Director: Dr. Jacqueline Haverkamp

Jaellene Na'wehi'u'ilani Jellico  
*Family Nurse Practitioner*  
 B.S.N., Medical University of South Carolina  
*Evaluation of an Electronic Alert System to Identify Barriers to Nursing Adherence to the Sepsis Treatment Bundle*  
 Director: Dr. Sabra Custer

Courtney Nelson  
*Executive Healthcare Leadership*  
 B.S.N., University of Texas Arlington  
 M.S.N., Cabarrus College of Health Sciences  
*Utilizing AACN's Synergy Tool in Primary Care Nursing to Address the Multifaceted Factors Contributing to Readmissions*  
 Director: Dr. Christy Jeffcoat

Thelma Chidimma Ozigbu\*  
*Clinical Expert*  
 B.S., University of Washington  
*Improving Depression Screening of Correctional Institution Inmates*  
 Director: Dr. Dwayne Alleyne

Adrienne LeAnn Schroeder  
*Family Nurse Practitioner*  
 B.S.N., The Ohio State University  
*Evaluating the Impact of Perineal Massage to Reduce Tears during Vaginal Birth*  
 Director: Dr. Kimberly Taylor

Gaynell Schrell Taylor  
*Clinical Expert*  
 B.S.N., Jacksonville University  
 M.S.N., Brenau University  
*Evaluating Microbreaks Impact on Musculoskeletal Injuries and Pain among Meat Cutters*  
 Director: Dr. Sheryl Mitchell

Sabrina Kimberly Vilord  
*Executive Healthcare Leadership*  
 B.S., University of South Carolina  
 M.S., University of South Alabama  
*The Impact of TeamSTEPPS CUS on Workplace Culture*  
 Director: Dr. Christy Jeffcoat

## DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Krystal Daniel Becks\*  
*Nursing Science*  
 B.S., M.S., Clemson University  
*Emotions and Cognition*  
 Director: Dr. Michael Wirth

Ubong Adedeji James  
*Nursing Science*  
 B.S.N., South Carolina State University  
*Exploring the Interplay between Sociodemographic Factors, Dietary Inflammation, Acculturation, and Depressive Symptoms among Latino Adults in the United States*  
 Director: Dr. Michael Wirth

## COLLEGE OF HOSPITALITY, RETAIL, AND SPORT MANAGEMENT

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Alex Kweku Arhin\*  
*Hospitality Management*  
 B.S., University of Cape Coast  
 M.T.M.P., University of Girona  
*Organizational Resilience beyond Bouncing Back: A Study of Transformative Resilience in Small Hospitality and Tourism Businesses*  
 Director: Dr. Robin DiPietro

Badr Badraoui\*  
*Hospitality Management*  
 B.S., Pforzheim University  
 M.S., Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts  
*Strategic Pricing in a Disrupted Hospitality Landscape: Asset Valuation, Competitive Behavior, and Consumer Preferences*  
 Director: Dr. Scott Smith

Deukmook Bae\*  
*Sport and Entertainment Management*  
 B.S., M.S., Seoul National University  
*The Mediating Role of Gratifications in Gamified AI Chatbot Engagement: A Stimulus-Organism-Response Approach*  
 Director: Dr. Stephen Shapiro

Ryan Dastrup\*  
*Sport and Entertainment Management*  
 B.S., Utah Valley University  
 M.P.S., Ohio University  
*Who's on First, What's on Second an Analysis of Major League Baseball Fans and Multiple Points of Attachment*  
 Director: Dr. Todd Koesters

Hui Jiang\*  
*Hospitality Management*  
 B.S., M.S., Sun Yat-sen University  
*An Evolving Concept of Well-Being in the Digital Era: Digital Well-Being in Tourism and Hospitality Experiences*  
 Director: Dr. Fang Meng

Suji Kim\*  
*Sport and Entertainment Management*  
 B.E.S.L.S., Ewha Womans University  
 M.L., Chung-Ang University  
 B.L., Korea National Open University  
 M.L., University of Minnesota  
*The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on the Sport Industry:  
 Trademark Challenges and Legal Issues for Sport Brands*  
 Director: Dr. John Grady

Deokkyung Ock\*  
*Sport and Entertainment Management*  
 B.S., M.S.M., Seoul National University  
*Esports Audience Segmentation: Means-End Chain Approach*  
 Director: Dr. Yongjin Hwang

Lali Odosashvili\*  
*Hospitality Management*  
 B.S., M.S., Ilia State University  
 M.S., University of Delaware  
*From Soviet Legacy to Sustainable Tourism: Evolutionary  
 Economic Geography Perspectives on Tourism Development in  
 Post-Soviet States*  
 Director: Dr. Lori Pennington-Gray

Damla Sonmez\*  
*Hospitality Management*  
 B.S., Antalya Bilim University  
 M.S., University of South Florida  
*Play Guide Aspire: How Game Type and Trainer Involvement  
 Shape Orientation Training Outcomes*  
 Director: Dr. Scott Taylor

Kemardo Tyrell\*  
*Sport and Entertainment Management*  
 B.A., Notre Dame College  
 M.S., University of Arkansas  
 M.B.A., Idaho State University  
*Artificial Intelligence in Sport Management: A Systematic Review,  
 Scale Development and Validation, and Implications*  
 Director: Dr. Khalid Ballouli

## ARNOLD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Victoria Oluwapamilerin Adebisi  
*Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior*  
 B.S., University of Ibadan  
 M.P.H., University of California  
*Breastfeeding Decision-Making and Practices among Working  
 Mothers and Role of External Influences in Urban Nigeria*  
 Director: Dr. Leila Larson

Talal Alshehri  
*Environmental Health Sciences*  
 B.E.H., University of Dammam  
 M.P.H., Eastern Kentucky University  
*Investigation of Metals and Incidental Nanomaterials in  
 Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Ashes and Their Impacts on Marine  
 Phytoplankton*  
 Director: Dr. Mohammed Baalousha

Megan Elizabeth Austin\*  
*Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior*  
 B.S., M.P.H., University of South Carolina  
*The Influence of Sex Education on Sexual Behaviors from  
 Adolescence to Young Adulthood in South Carolina*  
 Director: Dr. Deborah Billings

Halide Zeynep Aydin\*  
*Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior*  
 B.S., University of Worcester  
 M.S., Bangor University  
*Making Sense of PCOS in the Digital Age: A Mixed-Methods  
 Study of Health Communication and Social Media  
 Engagement*  
 Director: Dr. Gabrielle Turner-McGrievy

Elizabeth Carey Bair\*  
*Environmental Health Sciences*  
 B.S., New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology  
 M.S., Georgia Institute of Technology  
*Inorganic Nanoparticle and Nanoplastic Transformations and the  
 Impact on Biouptake by Freshwater Algal Cells Using Single Cell  
 and Single Particle Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass  
 Spectrometry*  
 Director: Dr. Jamie Lead

Ruilie Cai  
*Biostatistics*  
 B.S., Central South University  
 M.M., Sichuan University  
*Dynamic Prediction Using Complex Survival Model on  
 Longitudinal Electronic Health Records Data*  
 Director: Dr. Jiajia Zhang

Margaret Ann Carson\*  
*Environmental Health Sciences*  
 B.S., Presbyterian College  
 M.P.H., University of South Carolina  
*Harmful Algal Blooms and Lake Wateree: The Assessment of  
 Microseira Wollei and Associated Toxins on the Fathead Minnow  
 (Pimephales Promelas) and the Potential Public Health Implications  
 on the Lake Wateree Residential Community*  
 Director: Dr. Geoffrey Scott

Afsaneh Fallahi\*  
*Epidemiology*  
 B.S., Qazvin University of Medical Sciences  
 M.S., Tehran University of Medical Sciences  
*Association between the Energy-Adjusted Dietary Inflammatory  
 Index (E-DII) and Risk of Falls and Related Injuries in Older  
 Adults in the United States*  
 Director: Dr. Matthew Lohman

Samuel Gavi\*  
*Epidemiology*  
 B.Pharm., University of Zimbabwe School of Medicine  
 M.S., University of California Berkeley  
*The Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences and Living with  
 HIV on Cardiovascular Health and Cardiometabolic Disorders in  
 an African Population: An Analysis of the In-Depth Community  
 in Rural South Africa*  
 Director: Dr. Monique J. Brown

Keren Herran  
*Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior*  
 B.S., University of Maryland Baltimore County  
*Food Insecurity and Social Connection of Nicaraguan Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Costa Rica: A Qualitative Study*  
 Director: Dr. Edward Frongillo Jr.

Blaine Lints\*  
*Exercise Science*  
 B.S., University of Charleston West Virginia  
 M.S., The George Washington University  
*Novel Approaches to Combat Neuro-Degradation: Investigations of Two Supplemental Strategies Aimed at Improving Warfighter Performance*  
 Director: Dr. Shawn Arent

Ziang Liu  
*Biostatistics*  
 B.S., Hohai University  
 M.S., Yale University  
*Learning Individualized Treatment Rules with Optimal Treatment Grouping for Survival Outcomes*  
 Director: Dr. Jiajia Zhang

Courtney M. Meyer\*  
*Exercise Science*  
 B.S., Truman State University  
 M.S., West Texas A&M University  
*Catastrophic Injury and Sudden Death in Sport: The Intersection of Injury, Policy, and Law*  
 Director: Dr. Susan Yeargin

Kenya Shereece Moore\*  
*Exercise Science*  
 B.S., University of Florida  
 M.S., University of South Carolina  
*Academic Wellness in Health Professional Students: The Intersection between Dietary Attitudes and Behaviors, Sleep Quality, and Mental Health*  
 Director: Dr. Toni Torres-McGehee

Emily Ellen Owens Pickle\*  
*Epidemiology*  
 B.S., University of Florida  
 M.P.H., Rollins College  
*Aggressive, Adaptive, and Underestimated: From Allergy to Arboviruses, the Rise of the Lone Star Tick*  
 Director: Dr. Melissa Nolan

Hannah Jane Parker\*  
*Exercise Science*  
 B.S., Berry College  
 M.S., Wake Forest University  
*Investigating Mechanisms and Day-Level Factors That Influence Children's 24-Hour Movement Behaviors*  
 Director: Dr. Bridget Armstrong

Pradeep Kumar Sahu\*  
*Exercise Science*  
 B.P.T., M.P.T., Utkal University  
*Modeling the Interaction between Pain and Movement: Insights from Brain Activation Patterns and Context-Dependent Emotion in Chronic Low Back Pain*  
 Director: Dr. Sheri P. Silfies

Xiaowen Sun\*  
*Biostatistics*  
 B.S., Shandong University of Technology  
 M.S., University of Missouri  
*Deep Learning Methods for Complex Survival Models to Electronic Health Records*  
 Director: Dr. Jiajia Zhang

Fanli Sophie Yi\*  
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 B.S., Tianjin University of Traditional Chinese Medicine  
 M.S., The University of Western Australia  
*The Relationship between Periodontal Maintenance and the Incidence of COVID-19 Infection, Complications, and Cardiovascular Outcomes*  
 Director: Dr. Anwar Merchant

Xingpei Zhao  
*Biostatistics*  
 B.M., Anhui Medical University  
 M.S., University of South Carolina  
*Advanced Bayesian Models for Group Testing Data and Cluster Detection in Ordinal Areal Data*  
 Director: Dr. Stella Watson Self

Siyu Zheng\*  
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 B.E., Jinan University  
 M.S., University of Michigan  
*Approaches to Enhancing Multiple Hypothesis Testing Methods with Side-Information*  
 Director: Dr. Alexander McLain

## DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Makenzie Brooke Anderson\*  
*Physical Therapy*  
 B.S., Charleston Southern University  
*The Relationship between Lower Extremity Power and Pitch Velocity in Prep School Baseball Pitchers*  
 Director: Dr. Shana Harrington

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*Differences in Backwards Walking Speed and Forward Walking Gait Variability for People with Multiple Sclerosis that Experience Falls Compared to Those Who Do Not*  
 Director: Dr. Alicia Flach

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*Differences in Backwards Walking Speed and Forward Walking Gait Variability for People with Multiple Sclerosis that Experience Falls Compared to Those Who Do Not*  
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*Sport Specialization among Youth Para Athletes*  
 Director: Dr. Shana Harrington

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*Sport Specialization among Youth Para Athletes*  
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*Physical Therapists' Capability, Opportunity, Motivations, and Behaviors Related to Physical Activity and Nutritional Behavior Change for Their Patients: A Qualitative Inquiry*  
Director: Dr. Elizabeth Regan

Krista Marlena Cummings\*  
Physical Therapy  
B.S., University of South Carolina  
*Does Aerobic Capacity and Pain Levels Impact the Ability to Increase Physical Activity Early after Total Knee Arthroplasty? A Secondary Cross-Sectional Analysis*  
Director: Dr. Elizabeth Regan

Austin Chase Curtis\*  
Physical Therapy  
B.A.S., Winthrop University  
*The Immediate and 24-Hour Effects of Body Tempering versus Foam Rolling on Lower Extremity Muscular Power Production during the Vertical Jump and Standing Long Jump Tests*  
Director: Dr. Matthew Geary

Alyssa Kallie Faulkner\*  
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*A Pilot Investigation of Hip and Trunk Neuromuscular Control, Pain Sensitivity, and Cognitive Behavioral Factors Associated with Transient Low Back Pain Development during the 2-Hour Prolonged Standing Test*  
Director: Dr. Sheri P. Silfies

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*Impact of Community Based Physical Activity Programs on the Quality of Life in People with Type II Diabetes Mellitus: A Systematic Review with Meta-Analysis*  
Director: Dr. Matthew Geary

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*The Immediate and 24-Hour Effects of Body Tempering versus Foam Rolling on Lower Extremity Muscular Power Production during the Vertical Jump and Standing Long Jump Tests*  
Director: Dr. Matthew Geary

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*The Relationship between Lower Extremity Power and Pitch Velocity in Prep School Baseball Pitchers*  
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*Impact of Community Based Physical Activity Programs on the Quality of Life in People with Type II Diabetes Mellitus: A Systematic Review with Meta-Analysis*  
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*Usability of the Adapted Rower (AROW) for People with Spinal Cord Injury*  
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*Biophysical Agents for the Management of Cancer-Related Pain: A Systematic Review*  
Director: Dr. Shana Harrington

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B.S., Binghamton University SUNY  
*A Pilot Investigation of Hip and Trunk Neuromuscular Control, Pain Sensitivity, and Cognitive Behavioral Factors Associated with Transient Low Back Pain Development during the 2-Hour Prolonged Standing Test*  
Director: Dr. Sheri P. Silfies

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*Physical Therapists' Capability, Opportunity, Motivations, and Behaviors Related to Physical Activity and Nutritional Behavior Change for Their Patients: A Qualitative Inquiry*  
Director: Dr. Elizabeth Regan

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*Examining Differences in Instrumented 20-Meter Walk Test between Parkinson's Disease Subtypes*  
Director: Dr. Alicia Flach

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*Physical Therapists' Capability, Opportunity, Motivations, and Behaviors Related to Physical Activity and Nutritional Behavior Change for Their Patients: A Qualitative Inquiry*  
Director: Dr. Elizabeth Regan

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*The Immediate and 24-Hour Effects of Body Tempering versus Foam Rolling on Lower Extremity Muscular Power Production during the Vertical Jump and Standing Long Jump Tests*  
Director: Dr. Matthew Geary

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 B.S., Sacred Heart University  
*Differences in Backwards Walking Speed and Forward Walking Gait Variability for People with Multiple Sclerosis that Experience Falls Compared to Those Who Do Not*  
 Director: Dr. Alicia Flach

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 B.S., University of South Carolina  
*Physical Therapists' Capability, Opportunity, Motivations, and Behaviors Related to Physical Activity and Nutritional Behavior Change for Their Patients: A Qualitative Inquiry*  
 Director: Dr. Elizabeth Regan

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*Sport Specialization among Youth Para Athletes*  
 Director: Dr. Shana Harrington

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*Examining Differences in Instrumented 20-Meter Walk Test between Parkinson's Disease Subtypes*  
 Director: Dr. Alicia Flach

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*A Pilot Investigation of Hip and Trunk Neuromuscular Control, Pain Sensitivity, and Cognitive Behavioral Factors Associated with Transient Low Back Pain Development during the 2-Hour Prolonged Standing Test*  
 Director: Dr. Sheri P. Silfies

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*Physical Therapy*  
 B.S., University of South Carolina  
*The Effect of Practice on the Control of Reach Extent*  
 Director: Dr. Jill Stewart

Lauren Melissa Senf\*  
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 B.S., California State University Chico  
*The Relationship between Lower Extremity Power and Pitch Velocity in Prep School Baseball Pitchers*  
 Director: Dr. Shana Harrington

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 B.S., Northern Arizona University  
*Usability of the Adapted Rower (AROW) for People with Spinal Cord Injury*  
 Director: Dr. Elizabeth Regan

## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Raymond Kenneth Bogdon  
*Biomedical Science*  
 B.S., Georgia Southern University  
 M.S., University of South Carolina  
*Hey, Don't Write Yourself off Yet: Unraveling the Mystery between Colitis and Depression*  
 Director: Dr. Phillip Busbee

Marion Cone Hope III  
*Biomedical Science*  
 B.S., M.S., University of South Carolina  
*Impact of Estrogen Receptor Alpha Overexpression in Adipose and Hepatic Tissue in Diet Induced Obesity and Characterization of Sex Hormones throughout the Estrus Cycle in Female Mice*  
 Director: Dr. Reilly Enos

David Janos Horovitz\*  
*Biomedical Science*  
 B.S., University of South Carolina  
*Enhancing D-Serine Signaling Reverses Age-Related Cognitive and Neurobiological Deficits*  
 Director: Dr. Joseph McQuail

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*Biomedical Science*  
 B.S., University of California  
*Harnessing Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell as a Pivotal Disease Model for Capillary Malformation*  
 Director: Dr. Camilla Wenceslau

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*Biomedical Science*  
 B.S., Winthrop University  
*Sex-Dependent Modulation of DSS-Induced Colitis and Seb-Induced ARDS by Bacteroides Acidifaciens*  
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*Peripheral Vascular Dysfunction and Alzheimer's Disease Pathogenesis*  
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## SCHOOL OF MUSIC

### DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS

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 B.A., National Hsinchu University of Education  
 M.M., Manhattan School of Music  
 Dissertation Requirement: Four Public Recitals and the Research Document: *The Integration of Tradition and Innovation: An Analytical Study of Hindemith's Piano Sonata No. 2*  
 Director: Dr. J. Daniel Jenkins

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*Music Performance*  
 B.M., James Madison University  
 M.M., Ohio University  
 Dissertation Requirement: Four Public Recitals and the  
 Research Document: *Fue Evocations: A Culturally-Informed  
 Performance Guide to Approaching Works for the Western Concert  
 Flute Inspired by Traditional Japanese Flutes*  
 Director: Dr. Jennifer Parker-Harley

Baha Lee  
*Conducting*  
 B.M., Yonsei University  
 M.M., Georgia State University  
 Dissertation Requirement: Four Public Recitals  
 and the Research Document: *A Comparative Analysis of Two  
 Symphonies by Robert Volkmann: Symphony No. 1 in D Minor,  
 Op. 44, and Symphony No. 2 in B-Flat Major,  
 Op. 53*  
 Director: Dr. Scott Weiss

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 B.A., Coastal Carolina University  
 M.M., University of South Carolina  
 Dissertation Requirement: Four Public Recitals and the  
 Research Document: *Relationships between Modern Marching  
 Percussion and Concert Percussion: An Investigation of Selected  
 Percussion Ensemble Repertoire*  
 Director: Dr. Scott Herring

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 B.M., University of North Carolina Greensboro  
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 Dissertation Requirement: Four Public Recitals and the  
 Research Document: *As Iron Sharpens Iron: Intentional Near-Peer  
 Mentorship in the Applied Studio*  
 Director: Dr. Daniel Sweaney

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 B.M., Ohio Northern University  
 M.M., University of Louisville  
 Dissertation Requirement: Four Public Recitals and the  
 Research Document: *Awareness and Practice Methods for  
 Musicians with Invisible Disabilities: Insights Gained from  
 Playing the Flute with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome*  
 Director: Dr. Jennifer Parker-Harley

Julia Kathleen Ross\*  
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 B.M., Ithaca College  
 M.M., Indiana University  
 Dissertation Requirement: Four Public Recitals and the Research  
 Document: *What Is Standard? Defining the Orchestral Percussion  
 Excerpt Canon through Comparison to Annual  
 Symphonic Programming*  
 Director: Dr. Scott Herring

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 B.M., University of Denver  
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 Dissertation Requirement: Four Public Recitals and the  
 Research Document: *Hearing the Difference: Just Intonation  
 Techniques Utilizing Distortion Product Otoacoustic Emissions in  
 Viola Performance*  
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 B.A., National Hsinchu University of Education  
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 Dissertation Requirement: Four Public Recitals and the  
 Research Document: *Comparing Prokofiev's Piano  
 Transcriptions: "Romeo and Juliet" and "Cinderella"*  
 Director: Prof. Phillip Bush

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 Document: *Parental Attitudes and Expectations Regarding Piano  
 Study for Their Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*  
 Director: Dr. Scott Price











