

C&R NEWS

Counseling & Rehabilitation Program Newsletter

(Red brick pathways leading to a metal and brick gate. Behind the gate lie trees and a red brick building)

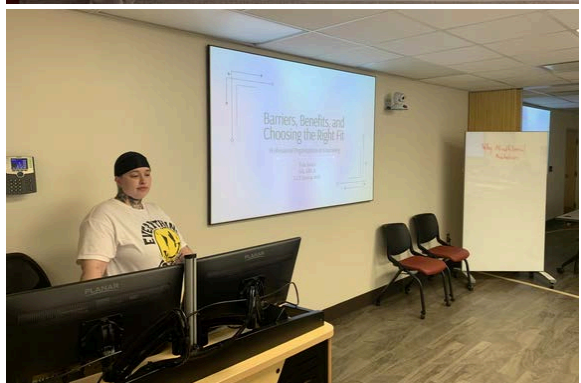


Spring '26 Learning Community Saturday Event

Each major semester, the Counseling and Rehabilitation Program hosts community partners, student and alumni presenters, faculty, counseling agencies from all over the state as well as our entire student population for a 1-day learning community event.



Students pose for the camera after a presentation.



LCS Presenters.

The most recent LCS event was held here on the School of Medicine - Columbia Campus on February 28 and included presentations such as **“When the Body Speaks: Somatics in the Therapy Room,”** **“How can PTs and Counselors Collaborate to Treat Patients/Clients? ,”** **“Humor in Counseling,”** **“OCD & Virtual Reality Exposure Therapy,”** and **“The Effect of Live Music on Mental Health, Well-Being, and Community Connection”** just to name a few of the 20+ total presentations.

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(Students walking across a field of green grass with trees and a stone statue standing in the middle of the field)

Save the Date

Spring '26 Learning Community Saturday Event

This year's event provided a multitude of valuable presentations and experiential learning opportunities to attendees. Students engaged in personal and professional development activities designed to promote professional identity, organize thinking regarding present professional status and accomplishment, solidify future academic and professional plans, and aid in professional presentation during interviews



The C&R LCS Group photo.

Should you or a colleague wish to present at our next Learning Community Saturday event during the Fall 2026 semester on October 10th, 2026 feel free to reach out to Patrick Demery at patrick.demery@uscmcd.sc.edu for additional information.

Alumni Spotlight: Christina Jones

In the spirit of discovering and spreading ideas, TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED Talk-like experience. These local, self-organized events are branded TEDx, where x = independently organized TED event.

TEDx Congaree Vista: Change Makers is an event spotlighting local visionaries across health, research, tech, arts, and grassroots initiatives, designed to spark community connection, fresh ideas, and meaningful dialogue that fuels local and personal change.



March 6th, 2026:
USC School of Medicine
Semi-Formal – [Purchase Tickets Here](#)

March 10th, 2026:
2026 Assistive Technology
Expo – [Register Here](#)

March 16th, 2026: CRC
Exam Webinar – [Register Here](#)

March 19th, 2026: Lunch
and Learn – [Register Here](#)

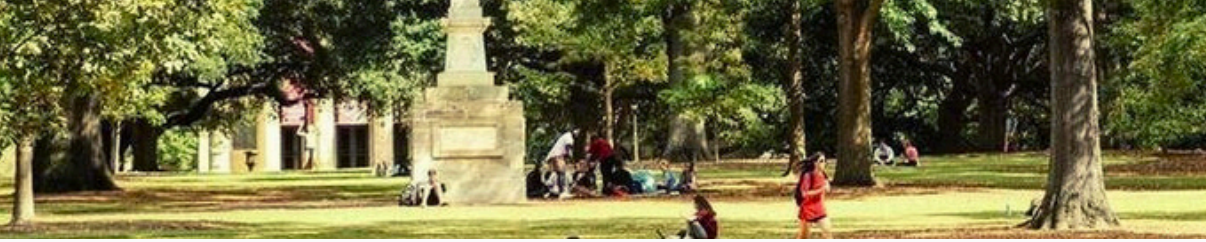
March 22nd, 2026:
Walk, Run & Roll for Brain
Injury Awareness –
[Register Here](#)

April 8th, 2026:
ARCA Pre-Conference
Symposium – [Register Here](#)

April 9th, 2026: Lunch and
Learn - [Register Here](#)

CHECK OUT OUR
SOCIALS!





(students walking across a field of green grass with trees and a stone statue standing in the middle of the field)

Alumni Spotlight: Christina Jones

TEDx is coming back to Columbia on March 14th and we'd like to invite you to join in virtually to hear from Counseling and Rehabilitation Program Graduate (class of '08) Christina Jones. Christina is a Licensed Professional Counselor and Supervisor at the University of South Carolina and Master Addictions Counselor; Mental health clinician and educator focused on recovery and creating environments that support well-being.

Her speech, entitled "**When the World is Too Loud, Creating Spaces for Belonging**" examines how everyday environments can unintentionally overwhelm sensory sensitive people and how small, intentional changes to sights, sounds, and surroundings can transform exclusion into belonging for everyone.

The event begins at **10:00am on 3/14** with Christina's presentation occurring during session 3. We hope to see you there virtually on March 14th using the link below!

Tedx Login Link: <https://www.youtube.com/live/ohZBlkOXFKA?si=-W3iwA881dc1kcoa>



Speaker 2: Christina Jones, *Licensed Professional Counselor, University of South Carolina*

About: Licensed Professional Counselor and Supervisor at the University of South Carolina and Master Addictions Counselor; Mental health clinician and educator focused on recovery and creating environments that support well-being.

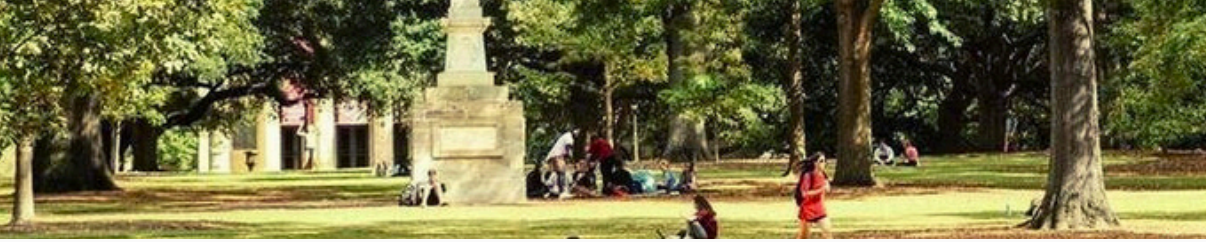
Speech Title: When the World is Too Loud, Creating Spaces for Belonging

Talk: Examines how everyday environments can unintentionally overwhelm sensory sensitive people and how small, intentional changes to sights, sounds, and surroundings can transform exclusion into belonging for everyone.

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Farren Stackhouse

This month, we highlight Dr. Farren Stackhouse for her recent completion of the **Provost's AI Teaching Fellowship Program**.

The Provost's AI Teaching Fellowship program is an intensive 12-month fellowship which equips full-time faculty members (10 fellowship recipients) with the expertise to effectively integrate generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) into their teaching practices, enhancing student engagement, collaboration, and learning outcomes. It consists of various components to ensure a comprehensive understanding and practical application of GenAI in educational settings. Fellows master techniques for integrating GenAI into pedagogical design to enhance student learning experiences.



(students walking across a field of green grass with trees and a stone statue standing in the middle of the field)

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Farren Stackhouse

Recently, Dr. Stackhouse completed this prestigious program, delivering her presentation entitled “**Counselors Leveraging GenAI from Consultation to Triage: Diagnostic Precision**” to both staff and faculty attendees during the GenAI Showcase held on February 27, 2026. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Stackhouse on this tremendous accomplishment!



Photos of Dr. Stackhouse attending and presenting at the event.

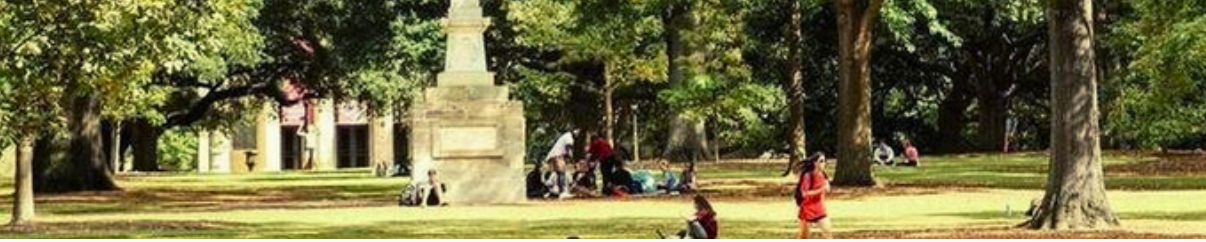
C&R Staff Attend Allen University’s Spring 2026 Career & Graduate School Expo

On Thursday, February 12, 2026, staff members from the Counseling and Rehabilitation Program and the Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science attended Allen University’s Spring 2026 Career & Graduate School Expo.



Patrick and LaVonn stand at the Counseling and Rehabilitation booth.

During the event, staff members were able to connect 1:1 with Allen University’s population of driven students and graduates interested in the field of counseling to share information about USC’s School of Medicine and the Counseling and Rehabilitation Program specifically. Students were encouraged to ask questions about the program and daily life as a grad student at USC. Interested students passed on their contact information and have been in contact with program staff regarding potential future application to the program!



(students walking across a field of green grass with trees and a stone statue standing in the middle of the field)

ARCA Pre-Conference Symposium

Join the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA) for their 2026 Pre-Conference Symposium on April 8 in Columbus, OH as they bring together rehabilitation counselors, counselor educators, students, disability advocates, and allies for focused learning, collaboration, and connection.

This symposium is approved for CRC and NBCC continuing education credits (up to 7 CE's)

APRIL 8, 2026
START AT 8.00 AM
COLUMBUS STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONFERENCE CENTER, COLUMBUS, OHIO

ARCA
AMERICAN REHABILITATION COUNSELING ASSOCIATION

PRE-CONFERENCE SYMPOSIUM

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY AND ENGAGEMENT

Join the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA) for our 2026 Pre-Conference Symposium on **April 8 in Columbus, OH** as we bring together rehabilitation counselors, counselor educators, students, disability advocates, and allies for focused learning, collaboration, and connection.

This symposium is approved for CRC and NBCC continuing education credits (up to 7 CE's)

APRIL 8, 2026 **START AT 8.00 AM** **COLUMBUS STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONFERENCE CENTER COLUMBUS, OHIO**

We hope you will then also join us the next day, **April 9**, for 3 more education sessions with CE credit followed by our Annual Membership Meeting at 1:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION OPTIONS:
ARCA PROFESSIONAL MEMBER - \$90
ARCA STUDENT MEMBER - \$60
NON-MEMBER PROFESSIONAL - \$135
NON-MEMBER STUDENT - \$85

APRIL 9 REGISTRATION ONLY:
NON-MEMBER PROFESSIONAL - \$20
NON-MEMBER STUDENT - \$10

For More Information Visit www.arcaweb.org
and to register visit: <https://arcaweb.org/conferences/>

A blue flyer displaying details for the ARCA Pre Conference Symposium.



You may also join ARCA the next day, April 9, for 3 more education sessions with CE credit followed by their Annual Membership Meeting at 1:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.arcaweb.org.

[REGISTER FOR THE EVENT HERE](#)

University of South Carolina School of Medicine Master of Arts In
Counseling and Rehabilitation Program is pleased to offer
**Are We Getting Wellness Wrong? What Professionals Need to Know
About the Science of Happiness**

Have you ever wondered if you were missing something in terms of how we define wellness? Have you ever wondered about ways to identify and prevent feeling unmotivated and generally burnt out? This interactive workshop style session is designed to orient participants to the state of the science around wellbeing and happiness, and to suggest some novel ways to enhance wellness and enhance our sense of autonomy and authenticity.

Upon completion, participants will be able to:

- Explore the ways in which traditional happiness has been defined and explore new ideas around how we may understand wellness more deeply.
- Identify proactive strategies for participants to build grit and enhance wellness.
- Identify proactive strategies for participants to enhance their own autonomy and authenticity.



**Michael J. Walsh, Ph.D.,
LPC, CRC, CPRP**

When: March 19, 2026 / 12:00pm-1:00pm Eastern Time

Where: A virtual log on link will be sent to all who RSVP for the program one day prior to the event or you are welcomed to join us in person at 910 Cook Rd, Orangeburg, SC 29118

[Click here to register.](#) Registration closes on March 18 at 11:00am. In order to receive CE credits for program attendance, participants must sign in using the provided link during the presentation, stay for the entire duration of the presentation and complete a virtual program evaluation following the presentation. No partial credit is offered for this event.

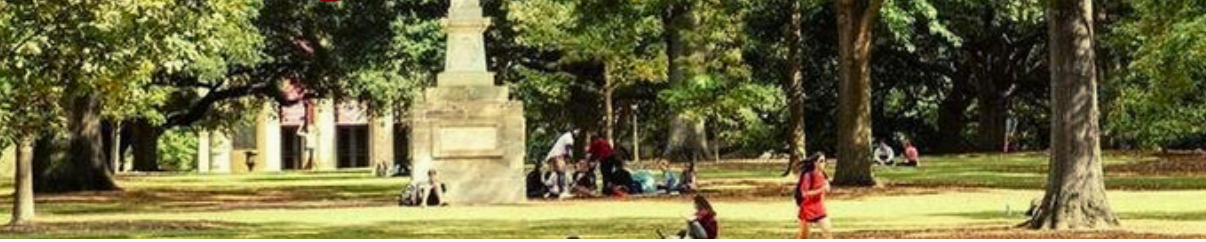


Continuing Education Credit Available: 1 NBCC credit hour

University of South Carolina School of Medicine Master of Arts in Counseling and Rehabilitation Program has been approved by NBCC as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 3089. Programs that do not qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. University of South Carolina School of Medicine Master of Arts in Counseling and Rehabilitation Program is solely responsible for all aspects of the program.

If you need special accommodations or have questions, please contact us.

**rehab@uscmcd.sc.edu or (803) 216-3690 6311 Garners
Ferry Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29209 SC.edu**



(students walking across a field of green grass with trees and a stone statue standing in the middle of the field)

CRCC 101 Webinar Hosted by CRSA

The Counseling and Rehabilitation Student Association (CRSA) is excited to invite you to an upcoming [Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification Informational Webinar](#) taking place on **Monday, March 16th from 12:00pm-12:45pm.**

CRCs use a unique and broad range of highly specialized services to evaluate, determine, coordinate, and manage any or all necessary services throughout the rehabilitation process.

This webinar will be a great opportunity for students at any stage in the program to learn more about the CRC Certification process, next steps after graduation, and important considerations as you begin planning your professional pathway. Our session will be led by alumni member and Spring '25 graduate, Nic Collins who will share insights and answer student questions in an informal Q&A format.



RSVP HERE:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1TUY8voisrhonnecQnWg3ZizkC1FG_92OMhQbg1o5bgQ/edit

Webex Link: <https://uscmcd.webex.com/uscmcd/j.php?MTID=mabafaed97eaf53267e9c31d9738da2a9>

We highly encourage anyone interested in licensure, supervision, or future clinical practice to attend. Feel free to bring questions, and we hope to see you there!

Blackboard: Did You Know?

Did you know that the Rehabilitation Learning Community Blackboard page contains an entire section devoted to self care resources for counselors? Check out the Professional Development tab which contains an archive of helpful articles pertaining to self care and mindfulness for Counselors and Therapists.

Whether you're a student nearing graduation or just interested in learning more about self care as a counselor, be sure to check out this useful section of Blackboard.



Blackboard



(students walking across a field of green grass with trees and a stone statue standing in the middle of the field)

Save the date for the NAMRC's 31st Annual Training Conference:

SAVE THE DATE

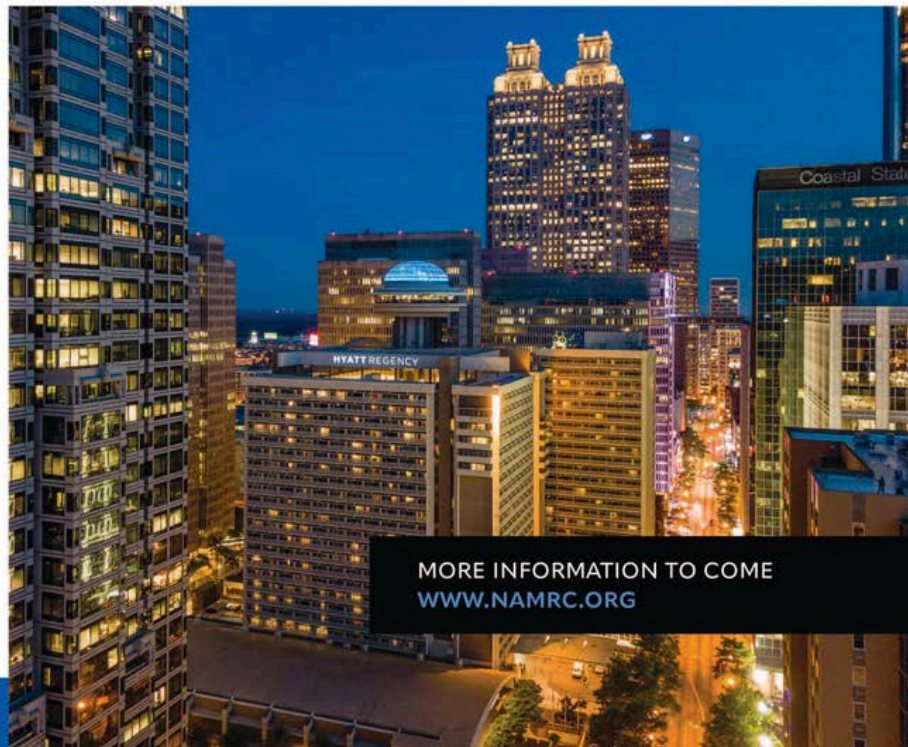


National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns

NAMRC 31ST ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

22-25 JULY 2026

HYATT REGENCY ATLANTA
265 PEACHTREE, ATLANTA, GA 30303



MORE INFORMATION TO COME
WWW.NAMRC.ORG



(students walking across a field of green grass with trees and a stone statue standing in the middle of the field)

Save the Date: Walk, Run & Roll for Brain Injury Awareness



WALK, RUN & ROLL for brain injury awareness

Join us as we rally for brain injury survivors and their families at Canalside, followed by a lively reception with food, drinks, a DJ, and family-friendly fun at Bierkeller. Gather your team, get moving, and help raise awareness and funds for this vital cause!



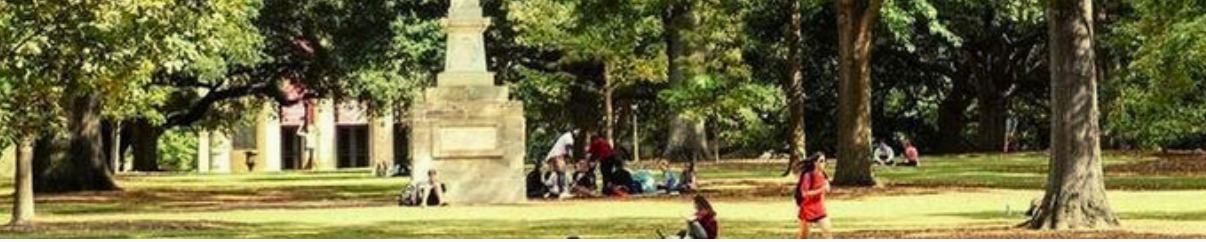
March 22 • 2–5 p.m.
600 Canalside St., Suite 1009



Learn more and register at biaofsc.com/wrr-2026.

Register by March 3 to receive an official t-shirt!





(students walking across a field of green grass with trees and a stone statue standing in the middle of the field)

Register Now for the 2026 Assistive Technology Expo

You're invited to attend the **2026 South Carolina Assistive Technology Expo**, a free, full-day event showcasing innovative assistive technology for people of all ages and abilities.

Join on **Tuesday, March 10, 2026**, at the **Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center** for hands-on exhibits, live demonstrations, and informative workshops focused on practical solutions for individuals with disabilities.

Who should attend?

Individuals with disabilities, family members, seniors, veterans, educators, and healthcare professionals are all welcome.

What to expect:

- An exhibit hall featuring the latest assistive technology products and services
- Information and continuing education sessions beginning at 9:30 a.m. with time built into the schedule to explore exhibitors between sessions.
- Free CEUs available for multiple disciplines, including OT, PT, SLP, nursing, social work, educators, counselors, and more



Two children utilizing assistive technology.

South Carolina Assistive Technology Program

CENTER FOR DISABILITY RESOURCES
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Scan to Register!



<https://bit.ly/47aVgPS>

Exhibits will be open from **8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** The full workshop schedule will be available next Friday on our Expo webpage.

Location: 1101 Lincoln St, Columbia, SC 29201 Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, Columbia, SC

Cost: Free and open to the public

Register today.

If you need accommodations to participate, please contact at janet.lambert@uscmed.sc.edu at least one week prior to the Expo or call at **803-935-5263**.



(students walking across a field of green grass with trees and a stone statue standing in the middle of the field)

Become an RSA Scholar – Student Information Session

USC's Counseling and Rehabilitation Program has been awarded a federal RSA Training Grant, and we're looking for our next cohort of Scholars! If you're actively enrolled in the program, exploring funding options, specialized training, or career pathways related to counseling and disability services, this session is for you. On 3/5, C&R students joined us virtually to learn about how the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Training Grant can support their education and future career.

What They Learned

- Overview of the RSA Training Grant and student benefits
- Eligibility and application process
- Financial support options (tuition, stipend, etc.)
- How service payback works
- Career pathways in state VR (including SCVRD)
- Q&A with program faculty

If you missed the meeting and are interested in becoming an RSA scholar, email Patrick at patrick.demery@uscmcd.sc.edu directly.

**School of Medicine
Columbia**
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

BECOME AN RSA SCHOLAR

STUDENT INFORMATION SESSION

We're looking for our next cohort of Scholars!

If you're exploring funding options, specialized training, or career pathways related to counseling and disability services, this information session is for you.

Join us to learn how the RSA Training Grant can support your education and your future career.

WHEN: Thursday, March 5, 12-1 PM
WHERE: [Click here to access the meeting link.](#)

unded by U.S. Department of Education, Grant Number H129B250036.
his project was funded by U.S. Department of Education under Grant Number 129B250036. For more information, contact the Counseling and Rehabilitation program at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine at 803-216-3696.
he content was developed under a U.S. Department of Education grant 129B250036 and does not necessarily represent the policy of the Department.

Become an RSA Scholar Infographic.

USC School of Medicine Semi-Formal - 2026

Get ready for the 4th Annual School of Medicine Semi-Formal!

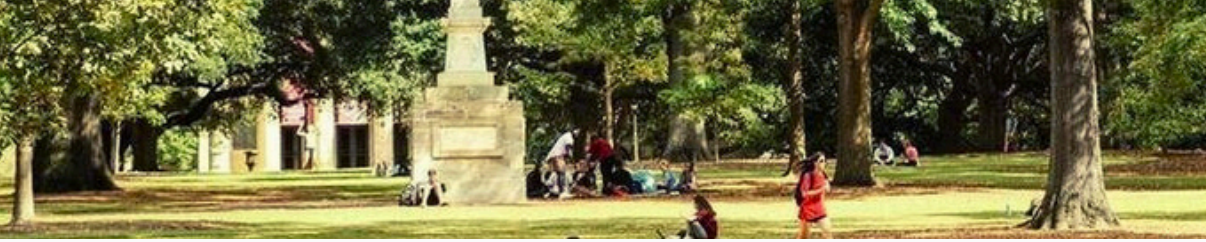
We can't wait to celebrate another amazing year with all of you! This time, we're bringing a touch of Parisian magic to the night with our theme: "La Vie en Rose."

Think pink hues, romantic vibes, and a little French flair – but don't stress about sticking to the theme! Dress in whatever makes you feel fabulous. As always, we'll have light appetizers, beer, and wine to enjoy throughout the evening. Plus, expect great music, dancing, and plenty of fun with your classmates and friends.

Tickets tend to go fast, so grab yours early and get ready for an unforgettable night!



Central Energy Columbia, SC
Friday, Mar 6 from 7 pm to 11 pm EST
[Purchase Tickets Here](#)



(students walking across a field of green grass with trees and a stone statue standing in the middle of the field)

Wellness Corner

As the days grow longer and the sun stays out later, take advantage of the extra daylight to spend more time outside. Even a short walk, sitting in the sun, or moving your body outdoors can boost mood, energy, and overall well-being. Longer daylight hours can also be a great reminder to reset routines by prioritizing sleep, hydration, and mindful breaks throughout the day. Small habits that help you reconnect with nature and sunlight can make a meaningful difference in your mental and physical wellness.



A graphic depicting sunshine.

Writing Tip: Running Head

In APA 7th edition, student papers no longer require a running head—only a page number in the top right corner of each page. A Level 1 heading is used for the main sections of your paper and should be centered, bolded, and written in title case. Using Level 1 headings helps clearly organize your paper and guide the reader through your content. (Source: <https://owl.purdue.edu>)



Rocky playing in a plant!

Pet of the Month

Meet our Pet of the Month, Rocky – the beloved pet rock of **C&R student Isabelle Walker!** Rocky may look low-maintenance, but don't be fooled... he's quite the rascal and is often caught getting into all kinds of (mostly imaginary) trouble around the house. Despite his mischievous streak, Rocky is also a loyal companion who is always there to provide a little comfort and company on tough days.

Show us your pet by filling out the form below:

[Pet of the Month](#)

Save the Date

3/6/2026 - USC School of Medicine Semi-Formal -
[Purchase Tickets Here](#)

3/10/2026 - 2026 Assistive Technology Expo -
[Register Here](#)

3/16/2026 - CRC Exam Webinar -
[Register Here](#)

3/19/2026 - Lunch and Learn: Are We Getting Wellness
Wrong? What Professionals Need to Know About the
Science of Happiness -
[Register Here](#)

3/22/2026 - Walk, Run & Roll for Brain Injury
Awareness -
[Register Here](#)

4/8/2026 - ARCA Pre-Conference Symposium -
[Register Here](#)

4/9/2026 - Lunch and Learn: Spring 2026 QPR
Training for Suicide Prevention in Clinical Practice
[Register Here](#)

Mid to Late March - Disposition Meetings

Early to mid April - Advising - Summer '26 & Fall '26
Registration