A Note from the Chancellor

Many higher education journal articles and conference presentations now begin with the basic idea that higher education is in the midst of significant and fundamental transition. By now, we are all familiar with the forces driving change:

- the model for funding higher education that was put into place after the end of World War II has proved unsustainable
- competition in the education sector is more intense than ever before
- technological advances have disrupted the way we deliver content and challenged traditional concepts related to the ownership of knowledge
- changing content and the emergence of new disciplines
- student needs have changed as the U.S. institutions educate both more individuals and a more diverse group of learners than in the history of our nation
- public perception about the value of a college education has shifted
- legislatures, boards, and the public continue to demand that colleges are more accountable and provide proof of value-added through the educational process.

See “Note from Chancellor” on page 8.
Within the framework of the Forward Together visioning process and upon recommendations from the task force groups, the Chancellor’s Office recently announced the following updates impacting our organizational structure.

Effective on August 1, Mr. Joe Sobieralski’s title became Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration/Chief Financial Officer to more accurately reflect his role at the University. With this change in title comes the added responsibility to provide supervision to University Police and Operations within his division. We believe this realignment will allow us to focus these efforts in new directions in support of our campus mission.

To enhance the wellness culture of the university and connect the Wellness Center more firmly to Student Life, the Center will now report to Dr. Deb Kladivko. Under the direction of our Director Mila Padgett, the Wellness Center is poised to play an even greater role in the health and wellness of our campus with new initiatives and programs. This reorganization will allow for greater synergy between Student Life programming and Wellness Center initiatives to contribute to better retention of our students through engaging programs and services.

One of the clear recommendations from the campus was to enhance the EVCAA position to make it more similar to a Provost position. In response, Enrollment Management (which includes recruitment, admissions, financial aid, the registrar’s office, and Career Services) is under the guidance of an Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management who reports to Dr. Priest.

The overall impact of the reorganization reduces the number of full-time senior administrators by 28.6%, bringing us under the average for institutions of our size and scope.

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SC Aiken is excited to be involved in the new USC System Palmetto College initiative, which provides South Carolina residents the opportunity to complete their bachelor's degree in business, elementary education, nursing, criminal justice, or human services by taking online courses from one of the four senior USC campuses. Starting this fall, the School of Business Administration at USC Aiken is offering an online degree completion program leading to the BSBA degree with a concentration in management. We are proud to report that there have been over 500 inquiries about the Palmetto College business degree completion program, resulting in 95 new applicants to USC Aiken and 35 newly admitted business students, 31 of which are registered for online business courses with us this fall. As the word spreads about this new opportunity, we expect to enroll another 30 to 40 more new USC Aiken students in the Palmetto College business major in the spring.

To be eligible for admission to the Palmetto College business major, students must meet all existing USC Aiken admissions requirements, and possess at least 60 hours of transferable college credit that can be applied toward the BSBA degree. Many applicants still lack some of the required lower level general education courses, so the School of Business works closely with them to help them find online sections of those needed courses. For more information about the Palmetto College business program, please contact Ms. Mary Claire Millies at marym@usca.edu or (803) 641-3595.

The SAC Café
M-Th  7am-7:30pm
Friday  7am-7pm
Sat & Sun  11am-1:30pm
5pm-6:30pm

Station Deli
M-F  7:30am-5pm

Market at Pacer Downs
M-Th  11am-9pm
Friday  11am-5pm
Sunday  5pm-11pm

Dining Services welcomes Faculty, Staff, and Students back! We are bringing back the $4 Monday Breakfast and $5 Friday’s, the perfect way to start and end your week! We will also be bringing back Wednesday Meals ToGo which will be $20 for a meal for 4 people! We had such great reviews this year that we are bringing it back with new menus like Grilled BBQ Pork Chops and Herbed Turkey w/ Country Gravy! Welcome back to all!
The Campus Citizen of the Month award is given in recognition of good citizenship. All faculty, classified and unclassified staff, and university partners who have been with the University for one year and are in good standing are eligible. The nomination remains active indefinitely in the pool of candidates. The nomination form must be signed by the nominee’s supervisor and sent to the nominee’s Vice Chancellor in that unit. The criteria to be used in the nomination are:

- Initiative/Creativity: Exhibits ingenuity and resourcefulness. Examples: Improved work methods, efficiency within the department.
- Loyalty/Dedication: Willing to go the “extra mile” without being asked.
- Positive Attitude: Maintains effective relationships with others both on and off campus; serves as role model. Example: Consistently delivers prompt, friendly service.
- Leadership: Acknowledge those whose efforts have inspired and supported the performance and achievement of others.

Monday Group will review the nominations and select each month’s winner.

Contact Maria Chandler at MariaC@usca.edu for more information.
Virginia Shervette fosters connections at UK symposium

In early June, Dr. Shervette visited the UK to participate as an invited speaker in the symposium Living on the Edge: Coastal Tourism and Sustainable Consumption which was sponsored by the Samuel Lindow Foundation and the University of Central Lancashire Westlakes Campus (UCLAN-Westlakes). The symposium encompassed topics on sustainable tourism in coastal areas of the Mediterranean, Atlantic, and Pacific Oceans. Dr. Shervette spoke about her collaborative work with recreational anglers on Pacific Sailfish. The symposium was held in the coastal region of West Cumbria which is home to Sellafield, a nuclear reprocessing site that shares many similarities to the Savannah River Site. USC Aiken and UCLAN-Westlakes are hoping to collaborate in the development of teaching and training tools for nuclear safety.

Classrooms for the 21st Century

Thanks to the efforts of the Campus Technology Committee, its Classroom Technology Upgrade Subcommittee, and the Computer Services Division (CSD) you will begin to notice a few changes in the classrooms across campus. Last month, CSD began the first phase of its classroom technology modernization project by installing Smart Podiums in several classrooms. These podiums consolidate the classroom’s electronics into an attractive, multifunctional cabinet, making it more convenient for faculty to utilize the classroom technology and its related equipment.

In the coming weeks, CSD and the Department of Operations will also be installing Sharp Interactive Touchscreens in several classrooms. These interactive displays will take the place of the traditional pull-down screens and projectors in those rooms and will literally put hundreds of new features at the faculty’s fingertips. One of these screens is already in use in room 113 in the Nursing building.

Stay tuned for more details about training and new installations of Smart Podiums and Sharp Touchscreens. The following rooms already have one or both pieces of the new equipment installed: Penland 110, Penland 216, Penland 234, B&E 135, B&E 238E, Nursing 113 and Nursing 121.

Honors Enrollment Sets a New Record

This year’s incoming Honors cohort is three times larger than the average incoming class and represents the largest incoming group in the history of the USC Aiken Honors Program. We are welcoming in 38 students in our incoming class-26 are freshmen and 12 are continuing students. We have students from all over South Carolina, from Georgia, and as far away as New Jersey. We also began an exciting student leadership program within the Honors Program this year. Six students were named “Honors Ambassadors”. The students are Amy He (Jr., Nursing major), Sommer Farmer (Jr., Chemistry major), Jennifer Gilmore (Sr., English major), Andrew Boggs (Jr., Nursing major), Micah Hurtt (Jr., Psychology major), and Sean Wills (Sr., History major). Honors Ambassadors serve the Honors Program by helping promote the Honors Program at recruitment events throughout the year, by serving as peer mentors for all Honors students, and by organizing social and service learning opportunities for all the Honors students.
Parents of Children’s Center students have expressed a concern about vehicle speeds in front of the Children’s Center. The University Police are assisting us by increasing their patrol of the area, but please consider the environment and adhere to posted speed limits and other signage. We appreciate your help in bringing greater awareness to this important issue.

The Aiken Standard and Prestige Appliance are proud to announce the annual Aiken Home Show coming to the USC Aiken Convocation Center this October-Friday, October 25th from noon to 7pm and Saturday, October 26th from 10am to 5pm. The Convocation Center will be transformed with exhibitors showcasing the latest in home and garden products and services. The annual Aiken Home Show is the place for consumers to experience what’s new in remodeling, gardening, decorating, renovation, and more. Researching all of the latest materials and products available on the market can be time consuming – The Aiken Home Show makes that process easier. Tickets are $5 and remain valid both days of the event. Children 12 years of age and under do not need a ticket. Tickets are on sale now and may be purchased at the USC Aiken Convocation Center Box Office.

Did you know we have a Bluebird Conservation Program on campus? It’s located on the grounds of the Pacer Path cross country course near the Convocation Center. The South Carolina Bluebird Society (SCBS) and Grounds Supervisor, Matt Butler, worked together to install 10 nest boxes throughout the five mile course. The SCBS identified the Pacer Path as an “excellent habitat for a bluebird trail with its semi-open grassland, light canopy of trees, and sparse ground cover.” With the decline of natural nesting areas, the nest boxes provide a safe environment for the birds. In 2012, there were 19 fledged (number of young birds to leave the nests) bluebirds counted by the SCBC. The nesting season is March–August.
• Over 90 students attended the Student Leadership retreat at Camp Long
• 943 students attended one of our freshman or transfer student orientation programs this summer
• 50 students participated in the First Day of Service on the day before classes started; they provided valuable service to 7 United Way agencies.
• A variety of academic and non-academic programs filled the Week of Welcome schedule this year.
• USC Aiken students and community fans were introduced to our athletic teams in a fun and unique way when each team sang a karaoke number during Pacer Fandemonium on August 22.
A Note from the Chancellor
Continued from page 1

Those who follow higher-education trends believe our nation will never return to the way higher education was funded or operated prior to the end of the twentieth century. As David Ward (former President of the American Council on Education) has stated, “I believe that now the pendulum not only is unlikely to swing back toward adequate state funding but has fallen off its pin and is stuck in the mud.”

At the very least, it is clear that the forces shaping and changing higher education will require institutions to think and work very differently than in the past. For some, this is an exciting and exhilarating time which allows us to work creatively and entrepreneurially. For others, the speed and direction of change create dissonance and anxiety. No matter how we react personally, the question I believe we must keep at the forefront of our institutional discussions is, “How do we sustain what we value the most, pursue strategic innovation, and enhance quality as the environment around us shifts and the funding model disintegrates?”

The answer to that question is complex and multi-faceted, but I believe one response is to deepen our partnerships. Strategic partnerships with the community, business and industry, and other educational entities allow us to increase efficiencies and implement dynamic solutions to challenges. Partnerships come in a myriad of shapes and sizes, but the common denominator is that they have the potential of helping an institution to work more effectively and efficiently, to be more resilient, and leverage significant resources to expand our educational enterprise in ways that would not be possible on our own. See the table on the next page for some examples of these strategies.

As the Double Knot sculpture on our campus indicates, partnerships have been a vital aspect of this campus from our earliest days. As we move “forward together” with plans for our campus, I believe enhancing existing partnerships and leveraging new relationships will be a critical aspect of how the university can accomplish our goals in an ever changing world.

Sandra G. Jordan
“Partnerships come in a myriad of shapes and sizes, but the common denominator is that they have the potential of helping an institution to work more effectively and efficiently, to be more resilient, and leverage significant resources to expand our educational enterprise in ways that would not be possible on our own.”

- Partnerships within the USC System have allowed us to offer shared academic programs and leverage the buying power of several institutions. Appropriately vetted shared services allow us to focus and invest more on our core mission by reigning in operational components of university business. These partnerships are powerful tools for the institution’s fiscal health.

- Partnering with our local community allows us to broaden the base of support for our students. Some visible examples include signage to welcome our students downtown and beyond, welcoming the community to be part of the campus through our athletic events and cultural opportunities at the Etherredge Center, and encouraging individuals to connect with our campus as donors and friends.

- Partnering with business and industry in this region allows us to establish internships, student leadership, and career opportunities, and model for students the full spectrum of professions and careers available to students who complete a college degree. A recent example is our work with Caradasa, LLC to support and grow small businesses in a downtown Aiken location.

- International collaboration will allow us to broaden the scope of campus diversity, allow interested faculty to find an international research partner, assist the attainment of campus internationalization goals and prepare students for entry into the global workforce.

**Division Name Change**

The Division of Business & Finance is now the Division of Finance & Administration. Also a reminder due to recent reorganization of duties: Tara Jeroszko is now the main point of contact for scheduling and other matters related to Joe Sobieralski’s calendar. Tara can be reached at taraje@usca.edu or extension 3644. Kim Durden now reports to our Controller, Gwen Ashley, and Kim’s expanded role still coordinates campus grants accounting.

**Police**

As a reminder, the University Police have transitioned into the Division of Finance and Administration as of August 1, 2013. This transition should be seamless for the campus. Please look forward to future training opportunities related to campus safety and emergency preparedness (in collaboration with Environmental Health and Safety).

**Budget Office**

With the beginning of the new school year, it is a great time to begin reviewing your budget. If you need assistance in accessing information, or have budget related questions please contact Sandy Besley, Budget Manager, at SandraB@usca.edu or extension 3662. Additionally, look for announcements of budget trainings in the near future.

**Controller’s Office**

One Carolina – Accounts Receivable Module of Banner is up and running. As we find ourselves in one of our busiest times of the year, we appreciate everyone’s patience and support as we continue to work to fully integrate the new system.

**Custodial Services**

In the custodial world, a benchmark of good service is never noticing an issue, i.e. your trash is empty when you arrive for the start of the day, floors are dirt/soil free, restrooms are clean and odor free, etc. Let us pose this question to you…. How are we doing? Let us know if you encounter any issues – we will address them so you can go about your busy day without worrying about the little stuff. Contact Victor Albert at VictorA@usca.edu or extension 3414 with comments, questions, or concerns.

**Human Resources**

Human Resources encourages everyone on campus to submit nominations for Campus Citizen of the Month. We’ve had 9 recipients to date, three from Finance and Administration, two from Advancement, and one each from CSD, Enrollment Management, Institutional Effectiveness and Humanities and Social Sciences.

Also, Human Resources is excited about the overwhelming interest in our new recognition/thank you cards. We are on our second order! If you are interested in receiving some of these cards to say “thank you” to someone who pitched in on a project or went beyond the call of duty to be helpful, please email Maria at MariaC@usca.edu.

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MARKETING SAYS “CHEESE AND THANK YOU!”

Marketing would like to thank the USC Aiken staff and faculty members who took the time out of their busy schedules to get their photo taken on our “School Picture” days. We appreciate your help bringing our directories up to date. To see where your photo ended up, keep an eye on USC Aiken’s Virtual Directory. It has been updated by the diligent work of the Web Coordinator Lauren Couls and Marketing staff members Alexis Robinson and Phylesha Hiers.

web.usca.edu/virtualdirectory/

Operations Updates

Pedestrian Bridge:
This project was delayed due to right of way issues between the SC DOT and a local utility provider. Recent discussions with DOT appear to have resulted in a solution to the right of way issue. Modified plans from the engineer were received and submitted to SC Department of Transportation for approval and we hope to bid the project in the October time frame. Estimated completion date is TBD, but progress has been made.

Flag Court (In front of SAC)
New light poles were recently installed. We are awaiting new flags for the poles.

Penland Fountain
This project is awaiting approval from the USC System to bid. Estimated completion date is TBD until bids are received.

Greenhouse (to be located in the Pacer Downs Complex)
Notice to Award has been issued for the Greenhouse. This project is currently on track for its late fall completion date.

If you have questions about these or other projects, please contact Joe Sobieralski at JoeS@usca.edu

The Flag Court in front of the SAC is intended as a gathering place for students and serves as a campus landmark for giving directions. The bricks around the pole are sponsored by student organizations.

photo from Andrew Hendrix, @A_H_Hendrix on Twitter
The Pacer Shoppe has responded to the many requests made by students and faculty alike. The Pacer Shoppe will begin offering textbook rentals beginning with the Fall 2013 term on select titles with expanded title offerings planned for the Spring 2014 term.

Come by and see our new selection of gift and clothing items!

New gift items include:
Tervis Tumblers with Pacer logo wraps, Pacer garden flags, various mugs and cups with either Pacer logo or University logo, Camelback spill proof bottle, smart iPad case with University logo, University banner, leather University padfolio and ID holders, and micro mink Sherpa blanket with University logo.

In the way of clothing we now have glitter USC Aiken t’s, glitter sweatshirts, hoodies, various children’s clothing, baseball and basketball t’s, Nike shorts and t’s for men and women, and alumni t’s and long sleeve and short sleeve t’s with both Pacer logo and University logo.

New Merchandise is coming in everyday!
Re-Designing Fundamental Biology Courses (Hancock and Shervette)

The purpose of this project is to re-design BIOL 121 and 122 to hybrid/flipped classrooms. Dr. Nathan Hancock and Dr. Virginia Shervette from the Department of Biology and Geology began the development of online materials for the hybrid versions of BIOL 121 and 122 in March 2013. A hybrid version of both courses will be offered Spring 2014. For BIOL 121, Dr. Hancock plans to use one lecture period per week to meet with students and cover hands-on lecture activities in addition to the mandatory three hour lab each week. Students will also view lectures online and work through online homework activities. Dr. Shervette has designed BIOL 122 so that during the lab period, hands-on activities are fully integrated into the course topic of the week and students engage in a more integrated lecture/lab experience. Lectures will be posted online for viewing and students will work through online homework and quizzes once they have read the book chapters and watch the lecture materials.

Innovation Proposal for a 3-Year BA Chemistry Degree (Leverette, Fetterolf, Rowe, Glenn)

The purpose of this project is to explore the development of a 3-year BA Chemistry Degree. Dr. Frank Xie of the School of Business Administration and Mr. Mathew Spires, a marketing major in the School of Business Administration, have put together a questionnaire that is going out to area businesses gauging interest in a BA degree in chemistry and to explore employment prospects for such majors. The survey has been distributed, results are returning, and the data is being compiled. Dr. Xie expects that a final report will be made available to the Department of Chemistry and Physics by mid-September, 2013. Once that information is discussed, we will proceed with any appropriate action suggested by the study. If the data warrants, our plan is to have an initial degree proposal before the end of this year.

Predictive Analytics (Cheryl Fogle)

The purpose of this project is to develop a database and interface through which data can be collected from across the campus that will inform students and administrators when the student is experiencing any number of risk factors that could affect their ability to succeed or their decision to return. Data elements have been identified which will be collected throughout the fall semester and used to create a data model. The data model will identify variables within the student data that are predictors of student success. A myriad of direct and indirect measures will be used. The GRIT Survey, for example, measures an individual’s character strength of perseverance and was developed by Angela L. Duckworth at the University of Pennsylvania. This survey, with the addition of other questions to indirectly measure student engagement both inside and outside the classroom, will be administered to freshmen this fall. These psychological attributes and measures of student engagement will be matched with performance indicators such as grades, measures of engagement
from instructors, participation in Student Life events, and persistence to semester two in the spring. An analysis of these data collected from the freshman cohort will be performed in early spring, and the data model will be created. At which time, we will begin applying the data model and begin identifying students who are at-risk.

The Flipped Classroom and Mobile Learning (Tom Smyth)

The primary goal of this project is to increase student engagement through the use of innovative techniques that are student-centered, inquiry-based and technology-enhanced. Specifically, this research-based, pilot project implements three high-impact pedagogies that include the following:

- A “flipped classroom” in which the typical lecture and homework elements of the course are reversed;
- Creation of a dynamic, collaborative learning community using mobile technologies; and
- Implementation of authentic assessment of learning that incorporates an electronic course portfolio.

During Spring and Fall 2013, additional research on the flipped classroom, effective mobile apps, and portfolio assessment, focusing on best practices in the field as well as successful case studies at the post-secondary level was conducted. iPads will be purchased by the end of the fall semester and strategies will be implemented in EDRD 518 in Spring 2014.

Center for Research Excellence (Bill Jackson, Michele Harmon)

The focus of this project is to develop a forum for a network of faculty and undergraduate scholars who share an interest in expanding research opportunities across campus. As part of this project, a Center for Research Excellence web site is being developed that will highlight the research that is occurring across campus. This will enable faculty and students to link with other faculty and students who have similar research interests. The web site is currently under beta testing and the hope is for it to be launched publicly by the first week of September.

On-Campus Paid Internship Program (Corey Feraldi)

According to the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP), internships are one of ten high impact education practices. Internships provide real world experience under the supervision of a professional in the field. The purpose of this program was to provide on-campus internships to students who wanted to work with professionals who are located on campus. Units on campus were asked to write proposals on possible internship experiences they could provide students. Six units on campus were awarded internships: Archival Assistant Intern, Department of History, Political Science & Philosophy; Marketing Intern; Wellness Center; Research Assistant Intern, Department of English; Alumni Relations Intern, Department of Communications; Special Events Intern, Advancement; and, Admissions Intern, Office of Admissions. These units are in the process of hiring the interns for these positions.

Exploration and Feasibility of Offering a 3-Year BSN Track (Campbell, McGahee, Abraham-Settles, Carr, Havens, Long, Simmons)

The purpose of this project was to explore the feasibility of offering a 3-year BSN degree. A consultant who directs a 3-year BSN program was brought to campus to discuss the specifics of her program. A focus group of current nursing majors was conducted to gather input about a possible 3-year program. As a result, a concept of a 3-year program was developed and will be submitted in the Fall 2013.

Teaching a Course on Android Phone Programming (Rao Li)

The purpose of this project is to develop a course on programming Android phones. This course will actively engage students in learning how to develop applications for the Android phone. The course is being implemented in Fall 2013.