Gupta College of Science

Kick-Off Meeting
Fall 2022

Dr. Chad L. Leverette, Dean
Overview

• Welcome back!!
• New Hires
• P&T decisions
• Recent “Points of Pride”
• Announcements
• A look ahead…
Dr Breana Kyker, PhD
Lecturer

She graduated with a BS in biochemistry from CCU in 2017 and won the outstanding biochemistry student of the year. Breana then went to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville to pursue a PhD in Organic Chemistry, graduating summer 2022. Dr Kyker research involved a mixture of organic and polymer chemistry. In her free time, she enjoys reading, video games, Dungeons and Dragons, and crafts, as well as a variety of outdoor activities.
Dr Gabriela Perez-Alvarado, PhD

Lecturer

Dr. Gabriela Pérez Alvarado received a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Maryland Graduate School in Baltimore and a B.S. in Chemistry from Missouri State University. After obtaining her Ph.D., she conducted postdoctoral research at The Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California under two consecutive fellowships from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Prior to arriving at Coastal Carolina University, Dr. Pérez Alvarado held positions as a scientific associate at The Scripps Research Institute, as an assistant professor at Southern Illinois University, and as a research assistant professor at Iowa State University. Her research includes the application of biomolecular NMR spectroscopy to the study of proteins and RNA. Her current research applies biochemical and biophysical techniques to characterize the molecular interactions between multidomain proteins, small regulatory sRNA molecules, and mRNA UTR regulatory elements that control gene expression in bacteria.
Dr. Savannah J. Post, PhD
Assistant Professor

She received her bachelor’s degree in biochemistry from Berry College in 2017. She then moved on to Emory University to pursue her PhD in chemistry. While at Emory, she received an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship and conducted research involving the total synthesis, analog development, and biological testing of natural products with activity against pathogenic bacteria. She also received several internal teaching fellowships which allowed her to hone her teaching skills and teach an undergraduate course at Emory. Through these experiences she realized her passion for both teaching and research and, upon completing her PhD in 2022. Her current research continues to lie at the interface of organic chemistry and microbiology, where she aims to develop small molecules with improved antibacterial properties.
Prof. Charles Taylor
Lecturer
Charles Taylor graduated with a Master's degree in analytical chemistry from Clemson University in 2000. Since then, he has taught general and introductory chemistry for several colleges in the southeast. In addition to teaching, he has been active in program development, content development for both traditional and offline courses, and institutional accreditation. When not in the classroom or lab, Charles enjoys adding to his collection of classic console and arcade games or spending time at the beach with his wife and daughter.
New Hires – Dept. of Computing Sciences

Dr. Paul Cerkez
Assistant Professor

- Ph.D. in computer information systems at Nova Southeastern University
- Served 2 years as a assistant professor in the department
- Prior to academia, he was a software engineer (subject matter expert for naval aircraft software projects)
- Research - Artificial intelligence
- Teaching – AI
- Retired United States Marine serving from 1974 - 1997
Prof. Megan Hickman Fulp  
Lecturer

- B.S. in computer science and a minor in applied mathematics as an honor student at Coastal Carolina University where she was named the 2019 Outstanding Computer Science Student of the Year.
- M.S. in computer engineering at Clemson University
- Currently pursuing her Ph.D. in computing engineering at Clemson University
- Research - Computer system architecture and data reduction techniques
- Teaching - Programming and high-performance computing.
Prof. Kristen Haynes  
Lecturer of Mathematics

Kristen Haynes obtained her bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Winthrop University and her master’s degree (also in mathematics) from Miami University. She gained teaching experience as a graduate student at Miami University and then taught at Winthrop University for a year. She most recently taught several mathematics courses at Coastal Carolina University as an adjunct in 2021. Haynes enjoys working with the students and sharing the beauty and elegance of mathematics with them and is excited to join the Chanticleer family.
Prof. Dana Lee
Lecturer of Mathematics

Dana Lee obtained her bachelor’s degree in mathematics and her master’s degree in teaching from the University of South Carolina. She gained experience in teaching at Pennsylvania State University – Berks Campus and Reading Area Community College before taking some time to work in industry. She has most recently taught for Southern New Hampshire University and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School for the past year. Lee is excited to join the Chanticleer family and take the next step in her career.
Dr. Joseph Njuki
Assistant Professor of Statistics

Joseph Njuki is a statistician who earned his Ph.D. in Statistics from Bowling Green State University. He has a master’s degree in mathematics from Miami University and a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from University of Nairobi (in Kenya). Njuki’s current research interests include change point analysis, survival analysis, and statistical learning and modeling. He looks forward to teaching statistics and making a difference at Coastal Carolina University.
Dr. Chong (Carol) Chen
Lecturer

Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from Tulane University (2013); B.Sc. In Biomedical Engineering at Capital University of Medical Science, Beijing, China. M.Sc. in Clinical Engineering at the University of Liverpool, UK. Post-doc at Tulane University where she carried out research focusing on studies of leukocytes and tumor cells interactions in cancer metastasis and high intensity focused ultrasound treatment in solid tumors. Joined CCU in 2016 as visiting assistant professor, a teaching associate, and then a lecturer. Experience: teaching assistant at Tulane University and East Carolina University, NC in General Physics, Biofluid Mechanics, Elements of Biomedical Engineering Design, and Transport in Cell and Organs. At CCU, she teaches Introductory courses in Physics. Dr. Chen is excited to pursue a teacher-scholar career model in physics and engineering science.
Dr. Charles (Chaz) M. Hemphill
Lecturer

A native of Southern California, Charles Hemphill, received his B.S. in physics at UCLA. He dropped out of graduate school and had ten years to travel extensively up and down the United States, visiting 47 of the contiguous 48 states. His travels also carried him, briefly, to Thule, Greenland. A traveling companion, Diane, and he wed and the next three years saw them in and out of Latin America. He and Diane returned to her native Florida giving them both the chance to teach and raise their son. A special program at the University of South Florida allowed Charles to drop “back in” to graduate studies and obtain a M.S. in physics and then a Ph.D. in applied physics.
Melissa Baker, Ph.D. joins the Department of psychology as an assistant professor. She earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Appalachian State University and her doctoral degree at the University of Mississippi. For the past two years, she has served as an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology at Western Kentucky University. Her research focuses on forensic psychology. More specifically on processes involved in eyewitness memory, biases that affect the perceptions of interactions between police officers and the public, and public attitudes towards police officers and the use of force.
Lisa Gunter, Ph.D. joins the Department of Psychology as an assistant professor. She completed her bachelor’s degree at Evergreen State College and earned both a master’s degree and doctoral degree in behavioral neuroscience and comparative psychology at Arizona State University. For the past four years, she has served as a Maddie’s Fund Research Fellow at Arizona State University, managing a grant that involved the deployment and evaluation of various types of fostering programs at 100 animal shelters across the United States. Her research also focuses on the learning, behavior, and the welfare of dogs.
New Hires/Change of Positions – Staff

Ms. Melanie McKeefery
GCOS Business Manager
Dr. Michelle Barthet – Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor - Biology
Dr. Steve Bush – Post-Tenure Review - Biology
Dr. Wes Hitt - Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor - Physics and Eng. Science
Dr. Roi Gurka - Promotion to Professor - Physics and Engineering Science
Prof. Kim Baker - Promotion to Senior Lecturer - Psychology
Prof. Theresa Stanton - Promotion to Senior Lecturer - Psychology
Dr. Till Hanebuth - Promotion to Professor - Marine Science
Dr. Ogul Duncan - Post-Tenure Review – Math. and Statistics
Dr. Thomas Hoffman - Post-Tenure Review – Math. and Statistics
Dr. James Solazzo - Post-Tenure Review – Math. and Statistics
Prof. Jamie Hedges - Post-Tenure Review – Math. and Statistics
Prof. Denise Williams - Post-Promotion Review – Math. and Statistics
Prof. Joyce Keenan - Promotion to Senior Instructor – Math. and Statistics
Prof. Kevin Reynolds - Promotion to Senior Instructor – Math. and Statistics
Prof. W. Douglas Weathers - Promotion to Senior Instructor – Math. and Statistics
Dr. Erin Burge – Post-Tenure Review (Distinguished) – Marine Science
Dr. Jane Guentzel – Post-Tenure Review – Marine Science
Smart Reef Deployment

Dr. Paul Gayes, Executive Director, BCCMWS
Professor of Marine Science
https://youtu.be/5TzfKfAfF8o
https://spotters.sofarocean.com/?spotter-filter=SPOT-1716 Hilton Head
https://spotters.sofarocean.com/?spotter-filter=SPOT-1726 Stono Inlet
https://spotters.sofarocean.com/?spotter-filter=SPOT-30036R NMB
SCoRE – SC INBRE Summer Research

Summer Coastal Research Experience (SCoRE)

Chad L. Leverette @CCUChanticleer @SCINBRE
What a great day seeing our students presenting their summer research posters as part of our SCoRE (Summer Coastal Research Experience) program! Awesome student/faculty research! Well done! #highimpactpractice #undergradresearch #CURInAction
Other great accomplishments

- Over 1000 students in Horry and Marion counties have now experienced our portable planetarium!
- Led by Dr. Jeannie French, Professor and Chair of the Dept. of Computing Sciences

Student Success Award Recipient – Spring 2022
Prof. Nyeita Irish – Math. and Statistics

University Service Award Recipient – Spring 2022
Dr. Paul Richardson - Chemistry

Please help us share more!
Other great accomplishments

Dr. April Abbott, Asst. Prof. of Marine Science

https://aprilabbott.wordpress.com/

Congratulations, Dr. Abbott, on your grant award of $349,370 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) in support of your collaborative research project with your colleague at Oregon State University entitled, Collaborative Proposal: The benthic influence on north Atlantic deep water end signatures.

Please help us share more!

Dr. Diane Fibrance, Associate Prof. of Marine Science

Congratulations, Dr. Fibrance, on your grant award of $420,533.00 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) in support of your collaborative research project entitled, Dynamics of Cross-Shelf Plumes under Upwelling Wind Conditions.
Preliminary Enrollment

- Current 2022: 10,016
  - Freshman class record (~2700)
  - Overall up ~ 1.9%
- YTD 2021: 9,967 (8/9/2021)
Enrollment Factors

Top Five Enrollment Factors

- Location: 71%
- Degree Programs: 59%
- Campus Visit: 56%
- Campus Life: 51%
- Size: 44%
Retention

Five Year Freshman Trend Retention

2017: 69%
2018: 68%
2019: 73%
2020: 72% (72% in GCOS)
2021: 70%* (~69% in GCOS)
General Announcements

• Gupta College Council
  • All information/announcements shared from Executive Council and Deans’ Council
  • Provide feedback and leadership direction for college
• Office of the Dean meetings
• Fall Normal Working Hours
  • Model Summer Hours
    • M-Th 8:00am-5:00pm, Friday 8:00am-12:30pm
    • College coverage for deliveries, inquiries, student issues until 5pm on Fridays
  • University looking at other possible flexible work options
• International Travel Processes
• Other items coming to you from departments...
What makes us special and distinctive (early impressions)...

• GCOS is a special place with special people
  • Great reputation
  • GCOS is strong and a leader at CCU
  • Strong focus on the success of the student
• Teacher-Scholar Model
• Experiential Learning
• Premier STEM education for our students
• Laser focused on STEM – an opportunity
  • 7 strong departments – excellent curriculum
  • Excellent resources/buildings/labs/offices
Experiential Learning – a strength in GCOS

- Experiential Learning – High-Impact Practices (HIPs)
  - American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U)
    - Capstone Courses and Projects
    - Collaborative Assignments and Projects
    - Common Intellectual Experiences
    - Diversity/Global Learning
    - ePortfolios
    - First-Year Seminars and Experiences
    - Internships
    - Learning Communities
    - Service learning
    - Undergraduate research
    - Writing intensive courses

https://www.aacu.org/trending-topics/high-impact
Work Ahead of Us...(Our approach)

- Need to work on our identity for the future, our message
  - Lean in this year into visioning process
  - How we do this together
- Create a proactive approach to all we do
  - Initiatives/objectives, budget, curriculum, our policies, our priorities, etc.
- Willing to be experimentalists – it may not always work!
  - “Can do approach” – ask the tough questions
- “Rome wasn’t built in a day”! – be patient with each other
- Trust each other that our unified goal is to make Gupta even stronger and the absolute best we can be
Some immediate needs...primary focus

• **Our Vision** – primary goal this year
  • Vision, goals, objectives for the future – create our “message”
  • This will be what we lean on and how we base decisions
  • Align with President’s charge of *Reach, Rigor, Reputation* – how we do this in the GCOS
    • Support CCU Strategic Plan

• **Our Communication** – multifaceted – includes marketing
  • Internal and external (web, print, digital, video, social media)
  • Share accomplishments and challenges – be advocates for each other
    • Share our stories and needs with each other
  • Media and Communication Director
Some immediate needs...primary focus

• **Our “One College” Approach** – 7 unified, strong departments and distinctive Centers
  • Work to build advocacy, awareness, appreciation, excitement and support for each other
  • Get to know each other/listen to each other/work together
    • Stronger together
    • Would *love* to attend classrooms, labs, dept. meetings
  • Build community – faculty and staff, celebrate the accomplishments of our people
Some immediate needs...

- Budgets as a whole – possible new strategy moving forward
- Budget workflow
  - Purchasing, lab fees, grants, start-up, travel
  - Empower departments/chairs and let faculty do what they do best
- Personnel/staffing issues – how and when we recruit faculty and staff
  - Budget decisions to College Council for searches
  - Searches for this year – help in critical needs areas
- Equipment/Instrumentation – plan for future and risk management
Some immediate needs...

- Internal Processes – P&T, Faculty Evals, etc.
  - Advocate for faculty
  - Follow our Faculty Manual and College Handbook
    - Transparent, clear, accurate, efficient, effective
    - P&T dates
- How do we support and encourage experiential learning in GCOS?
- Orientation
- STEM recruitment (in and out of state) and outreach to community
Some immediate needs...

• Professional Development
  • Faculty and staff
  • Join in national conversations
• Brainstorm/consider curricular programs (new and/or revised)
• Build our external partnerships – BOV, alumni, donors, CMC, partners, etc.
• School of the Coastal Environment
  • Support and leverage BCCMWS, WWA, EQL – Centers and initiatives
  • Waties Island and Georgetown
How can we help…

- Dr. Chad Leverette, Dean – x2282
- Dr. Prashant Sansgiry, Associate Dean – x2078
- Dr. Rich Viso, Associate Dean – x4022
- Ms. Kelita Colburn, Administrative Coordinator – x2246
- Ms. Melanie McKeefery, Business Manager – x2211
- Ms. Sue Weber, Administrative Assistant – x2202
An “Effective” Leader

- Passionate, Engaged, and Proactive
- Collaborative (Servant Leader)
- Hard-working Collegial
- Kind
- Respectful
- Excellent Communicator
- Attentive (Attention to Details)
- Organized

- Responsive (Quickly and Positively)
- Persistent
- Transparent
- Available
- Trustworthy
- Integrity
- Humble
- A good decision maker
- Accountable

- Faculty and Staff Advocate – Believe in the Academy
Wishing you a wonderful semester!

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