

FALL 2017 - SPRING 2018



USC CONNECT

IMPACT REPORT



COURTNEY KEITH

Fall 2017 Graduate, B.S.B.A. Finance and International Business
GLD Global Learning Pathway

Before Courtney Keith studied abroad in Zurich, Switzerland, she did not know just how her experience would allow her to explore other cultures.

As a student pursuing Graduation with Leadership Distinction (GLD) independently, Courtney worked alongside USC Connect Student Advisor, Lisa Camp. "I really enjoyed working with Lisa. She really helped me dig deep into my experiences and get to the overall theme that I was searching for," Courtney recounted. "Working with a GLD Advisor was extremely instrumental in the development of my Key Insights and the creation of my ePortfolio."

Courtney's three Key Insights, featured in her ePortfolio, delve into her experiences involving issues of diversity, Americanization, and the many ways in which other cultures mix both domestically and abroad. "I found that articulating the connections between my within- and beyond-the-

classroom experiences was challenging," Courtney said. "But the insights I formulated were important reminders that much of what I study in class has been applicable to my experiences beyond the classroom, as well."

Courtney recently accepted a position with Fifth Third Bank and reflected positively on the benefits of sharing her Key Insights with her future employer. "Throughout the interview process, when I was asked about experiences from my resumé that related to my Key Insights, I had much more to say because of the self-reflection that was involved in the GLD process."

Courtney saw great value in having earned Graduation with Leadership Distinction. "Being able to articulate my Key Insights is something that will stick with me and serve as a topic of conversation in the future."

ASHELEY SCHRYER

Instructor, UNIV 401 for GLD

Assistant Director of Student Services for the Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR), Asheley Schryer, completed her fifth semester of University 401 for GLD (UNIV 401) instruction in Spring 2018. UNIV 401 supports students in completing their GLD ePortfolio. The course focuses primarily on helping students discern their insights, articulate how their within- and beyond-the-classroom experiences impacted their thinking, and consider how they can apply what they have learned to lead in the future.

reflect on their experiences, which in turn makes them more capable of articulating the value of those experiences in future encounters with peers, in job and graduate school interviews, or to anyone interested in hearing about their undergraduate experiences.

In addition to serving as a UNIV 401 instructor, Asheley Schryer has also taught University 101 and EDLP 520: The Teacher as Manager. "UNIV 401 is



"THERE IS POWER IN BEYOND-THE-CLASSROOM EXPERIENCES. USC CONNECT ENCOURAGES THAT."

Schryer began teaching UNIV 401 because of her passion for beyond-the-classroom learning. "It was a unique challenge that provided me the opportunity to understand more about USC Connect and what it was all about," Schryer said.

Because of her background with OUR, Schryer was eager to learn both about how students were using their research experiences to enhance their within-the-classroom experiences, as well as how students from other pathways were engaging in integrative and experiential learning. "There is power in beyond-the-classroom experiences. Students need to be experiencing research, global learning, internships... I love that USC Connect encourages that. GLD takes it one step further by asking, 'Yes, you went abroad, but what does that mean?'" Schryer appreciates that the GLD program and UNIV 401 allow students to

definitely the most challenging class, but also the most rewarding class I've instructed," she said. "When I go into UNIV 401, I feel like I teach. I facilitate, I support, I challenge... it's hard, but it's awesome." Schryer reflected on the difficulty of not pushing students in any particular direction when guiding them through the process of developing Key Insights for their GLD ePortfolios. "You often can see where students are going with their Key Insights. It's important to prompt students, but not lead them – to just ask questions rather than simply hand the answers to them."

Asheley Schryer recognizes the strength of the UNIV 401 course and its curriculum. "I'm so confident in this program that I always feel like I can say to students 'By the end, you're going to gain something from this, no matter what.' It's a very cool class to teach."

EVENTS



Fall Showcase 2017

Friday, November 10, 2017 || 2-4 PM
Russell House, USC Columbia Campus

Each November, USC Connect hosts the Fall Showcase to provide fall graduates a chance to present their within- and beyond-the-classroom pursuits. Faculty and staff members from a variety of different colleges and departments serve as reviewers for this event. For the first time ever, the 2017 Fall Showcase was open to the general public. Over 40 students presented this year!

Write Nite - Spring 2018

Wednesday, March 7, 2018 || 6-9 PM
Patterson Hall, USC Columbia Campus

Write Nite is a semesterly event designed to help students pursuing GLD construct their ePortfolios. Students can benefit from the assistance of USC Connect staff as well as Peer Writing and Communications Tutors from the Student Success Center. This event provides students with dedicated time, space, and resources that enable them to focus on ePortfolio completion. 20 students joined us for Write Nite Spring 2018!



McDonough Leadership Conference

April 6-7, 2018
Marietta College || Marietta, Ohio

This spring, members of the USC Connect Columbia Student Advisory Council attended the 2018 Annual McDonough Leadership Conference in Marietta, Ohio. This national event, themed "The Collaborative Side of Leadership," brought together undergraduate and graduate students from various institutions. Four USC students were in attendance, one of whom co-presented with USC Connect Student Advisor Sarah Gay at a session entitled "Connecting the Dots: The Role of Experiential Learning in Collaborative Leadership."



EVENTS

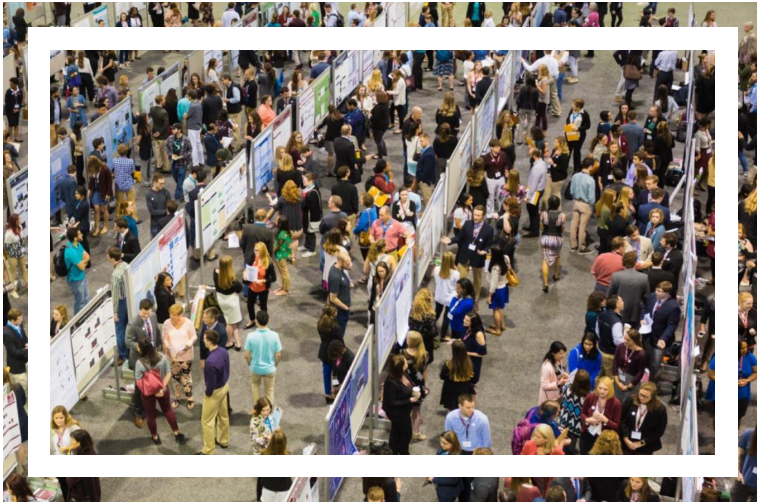


Photo credit: Forrest Clonts

Discover USC

Friday, April 20, 2018 || 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM
Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center

More than 1,000 presenters and more than 1,000 volunteers, reviewers, mentors and other visitors came out for Discover USC 2018, the second annual showcase of research, scholarship, creativity and leadership. Hosted by the Office of the Vice President for Research, this new and growing USC tradition provides opportunities for students from all USC System campuses to present their beyond-the-classroom experiences.

2018 GLD Cording Ceremony

Monday, April 30, 2018 || 5-6 PM
Russell House, USC Columbia Campus

The annual Spring GLD Cording Ceremony recognizes students who have earned Graduation with Leadership Distinction. Students receive a unique cord to be worn with their cap and gown on graduation day, as a recognition of their accomplishments. Approximately 230 graduates attended the Ceremony along with UNIV 401 faculty, family, and friends. Approximately 430 students earned GLD in 2017-2018.



USC Connect Student Advisory Council with USC Connect Staff.



Dr. Susan Elkins, Chancellor for the Palmetto College campuses, joins the large group of Sumter GLD graduates and staff for a picture!



2017-18

USCCONNECT FACULTY FELLOWS

Faculty are an integral part of the USC Connect team. Faculty Fellows serve as advocates for integrative learning and provide faculty perspectives and recommendations to USC Connect. They support students in developing Graduation with Leadership Distinction ePortfolios and explore the application of integrative learning strategies to their own programs. Faculty Fellows collaborate with USC Connect and one another to assess student learning and pursue scholarship opportunities including national presentations and publications. A Senior Faculty Associate leads coordination and professional development for instructors of UNIV 401 for Graduation with Leadership Distinction.

Matt Childs

History

College of Arts and Sciences

Keith Kenny

Visual Communications

School of Journalism and Mass Communications

Bridget Miller

Science Education

College of Education

Maria Peña

Biological Sciences

College of Arts and Sciences

Stuart Hunter

UNIV 101 Programs and USC Connect

We wish Stuart congratulations on her retirement and we want to thank her for her years of service to USC Connect!

Stephen Thompson

Science Education

College of Education

Myriam Torres

Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Arnold School of Public Health

Jeff Vaughn

Spark: Music Leadership Laboratory

School of Music

David Weintraub

Visual and Mass Communications

School of Journalism and Mass Communications

Scott White

Geology

School of Earth, Ocean, and Environment

WHERE TO NEXT?

THE FUTURE OF USC CONNECT

USC Connect is embarking on a new focus with an added emphasis on experiential learning. Experiential Learning Opportunities (ELOs) are types of integrative learning focused on one substantive experience or a cohesive series of experiences such as internships or other work-based experiences, service learning, peer leadership, study abroad, or research.

In Fall 2017, USC Connect staff researched student engagement on the Columbia campus to understand the percentage of students likely engaging in ELOs. Using the most recently available university-wide data from the 2015-16 academic year:

- 75% of students graduating in Spring 2016 likely participated in experiences that would have met ELO criteria;
- 150 undergraduate courses were assessed as likely meeting ELO criteria;
- 60% of students would have completed ELOs through a required course;
- and 60 non-credit bearing opportunity types were identified as likely ELOs.

These data indicate that experiential learning for all undergraduates is likely attainable at the University of South Carolina. Efforts are under way to ensure that all students have access to ELOs



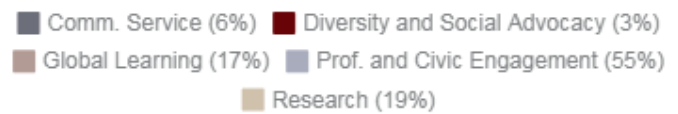
and that they understand the value of these experiences. We look forward to continuing this work in 2018-2019.

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BY THE NUMBERS

GLD Graduates by Pathway

(Fall 2017-Summer 2018)



Approximately
430
students earned GLD
in 2017-18

Approximately
785
GLD advising appointments
held in 2017-18

PRESENTATIONS

USC Connect staff presented to almost

2,800

students at over

70

events in 2017-18

UNIV 401

The **UNIV 401 for GLD program** reached many great milestones during the 2017-18 academic year. UNIV 401 for GLD was offered as an online section for the first time in the Spring of 2018, and the number of total UNIV 401 registrants broke USC Connect records for both Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 semesters.

FALL 2017

6

sections of
UNIV 401

FALL 2017

72

students registered
for UNIV 401

SPRING 2018

23

sections of
UNIV 401

SPRING 2018

331

students registered
for UNIV 401

USC CONNECT

Publications and Accolades

The 2017-2018 academic year provided USC Connect various opportunities to share the successes of our comprehensive initiative across the nation.



Executive Director Irma Van Scoy won SEC Academic Leadership Development Program (ALDP) Alumni Fellowship. The fellowship provides opportunities for SEC ALDP alumni to visit other SEC universities to strengthen their administrative leadership skills. As part of the fellowship, Dr. Van Scoy visited the University of Alabama, Auburn University, and the University of Georgia during the 2017-2018 academic year. She explored strategies, potential, and progress in taking integrative and experiential learning to scale at large, comprehensive universities.



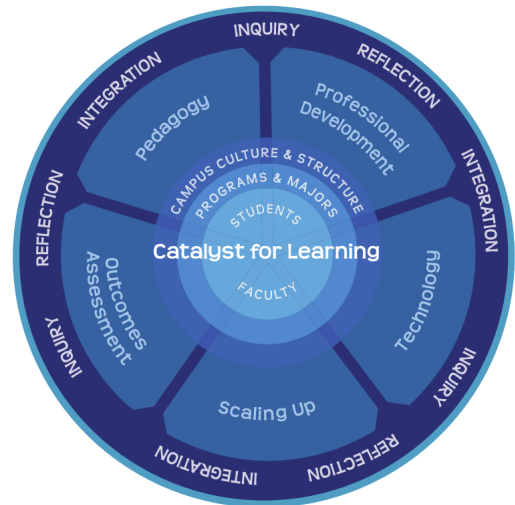
USC Connect's **Graduation with Leadership Distinction** program was highlighted in the National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition's e-Source. The article, "**Game Changer: How a Graduation Distinction Can Impact Learning for All,**" recognized the importance of the University of South Carolina's integrative and experiential learning initiatives and the GLD program.



U.S. News & World Report mentioned that the University of South Carolina's "commitment to student success continues at every step, with programs such as **USC Connect and Graduation with Leadership Distinction** helping students become active, engaged, and successful in their professional and civic lives."



USC Connect as Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) was featured in a publication by **New Directions for Institutional Research**.



USC Connect will be featured in the upcoming book **Catalyst in Action: Case Studies of High-Impact ePortfolio Practice** (anticipated September 2018).



USC Connect was featured in the **NASPA Region III Synergy Newsletter** on providing effective feedback to facilitate student learning.



USCCONNECT

STAFF

2017-2018

None of this year's accomplishments would be possible without the dedicated team of hardworking and passionate individuals that are committed to advancing the University of South Carolina's and USC Connect's mission of encouraging integrative and experiential learning within- and beyond-the-classroom.

Dr. Irma Van Scoy, Executive Director

Dr. Amber Fallucca, Associate Director

Theresa Harrison, Assistant Director

Lisa D. Camp, Student Advisor

Sarah Gay, Student Advisor

Zack James, Administrative Assistant

William Quinlan, Graduate Assistant

Audrey Whelan, Marketing and Communications Intern

Tori Mengelkamp, Digital and Social Media Intern

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