

FALL 2018 - SPRING 2019



USC CONNECT

IMPACT REPORT

Chemistry Beyond the Classroom

An Interview with Dr. Helene Maire-Afeli, Assistant Professor of Chemistry at USC Union

By Kelly Soder

Dr. Helene Maire-Afeli first heard about USC Connect and Graduation with Leadership Distinction (GLD) at Oktoberfest, a teaching symposium, a few years. She then learned more about GLD after talking to Dr. Hauptman, the USC Connect representative on the USC Union campus at the time. After learning about GLD and what it meant, she started thinking about how she could give her students the opportunity to earn GLD -- in an epic way.



Mary Scarborough poses in front of the Eiffel Tower.

When Dr. Maire-Afeli was growing up in France, her favorite part of school was always field trips because they made learning fun. As a professor, she always tries to include field trips because she believes this type of experiential learning provides a more complete experience. As a former international student herself studying abroad in Kansas, she wanted to give her students the opportunity to study abroad themselves and so the idea to earn GLD during a week in France was born.

A unique element of this trip was that it checked off a lot of firsts for many of the six students who attended. Whether it would be their first time abroad, the first time on a plane, or for some, even the first time out of the county, Dr. Maire-Afeli knew her students needed more to understand the world that they're living in. CHEM 105, Chemistry in Modern Society, was the chosen course for this adventure because the course is open to all non-science majors and so they were not tied down to a stricter lab schedule. Their majors ranged from nursing to business while some were still exploring.

The study abroad experience was packed from start to finish. Taking off straight from the airport on June 4, 2018, the group went right to Notre-Dame and marveled at the stained glass windows. They explored historic neighborhoods, ate at gourmet restaurants and of course, had optional wine tastings. "We didn't have any time off; we used the entire time we had," Dr. Maire-Afeli said. Throughout the week,

“

MY FAVORITE PART OF THE TRIP WAS THE COMMENTS, THE CLICKS, THE LITTLE LIGHTBULBS GOING OFF.

-Dr. Helene Marie Afeli

”

the CHEM 105 class would visit the Louvre to illustrate chemistry in the art, take a cooking class with an authentic French chef to see chemistry in the kitchen, take a cruise up the Seine, make a surprise visit to the Moulin Rouge, have cheese tastings and visit one of the most famous and prestigious perfume museums, Fragonard, to learn about the chemistry in the perfume industry. Even in the students' off time, they were still actively engaged in learning. The group used the subway and busses to get around after Dr. Maire-Afeli explained to her students how public transportation worked in France in the multitude of meetings leading up to the trip. "I let them show me. When it was time to go back to the hotel, I let them show me how we were going to get back and I followed them," Dr. Maire-Afeli noted.

"I think this experience will make the students look at future material differently. They're more likely to look for connections outside the classroom since they have made that connection before, so they know it exists," Dr. Maire-Afeli said. "My favorite part of the trip was the comments, the clicks, the little light bulbs going off."

What's next for Dr. Maire-Afeli in providing her students the chance for experiential learning? Some definite repeats of the successful Paris trip and then, maybe, Iceland as long as she can make it affordable for her students. "Your life won't be complete until you leave your comfort zone," Dr. Maire-Afeli said. "For those that will travel, leave all judgments behind. Go with an open mind and open-ended questions."



Top photo: Dr. Maire Afeli and Fernanda Paniagua-Martinez selfie in Paris.

Middle: Todd Cudd, Fernanda Paniagua-Martinez, Brittney Means, Caroline England, Mary Scarborough listening intently during their authentic French cooking class.

Bottom left: Brittney Means enjoying the authentic French cooking class.

Bottom right: Caroline England, Mary Scarborough, Jennifer Cudd, Todd Cudd sightseeing in Paris.



2019

Faculty Fellows

Faculty Fellows are an important 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.



Marianne Bickle
Interdisciplinary Studies
College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management



Holly Crocker
English Language and Literature
College of Arts and Sciences



Melissa Ann Moss
Biomedical and Chemical Engineering
College of Engineering and Computing



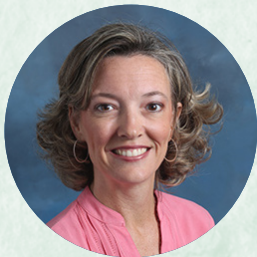
Daniel Ostergaard
International Business
Darla Moore School of Business



David Rocheleau
Mechanical Engineering
College of Engineering and Computing



Howie Scher
Earth Ocean and Environment
College of Arts and Sciences



Beth White
Instruction and Teacher Education, Elementary Education
College of Education

Former Faculty Fellows reflect on their year.

"After being a Faculty Fellow and working with students to integrate their learning across experiences in their ePortfolios, I understand that students are skilled at picking up bits of information through facts, events, and stories and less skilled in latching onto explanatory models when first introduced. I am now far more explicit when I lecture to my big class of 300 students. I make sure that they know, here's a concept, here's how it's developed, here's how you identify it and here's how it applies elsewhere."



Bentley Coffey
Darla Moore School of Business

Matt Childs
History
College of Arts and Sciences



"During your regular courses, you interact with students to see whether or not they get the material you're trying to teach them. By working with students on articulating what they have learned within and beyond the classroom, you get a broader view of students' educations. You get to see how course content plugs into their beyond the classroom learning. I find it to be deeply rewarding."

"Being a Fellow has encouraged me to get the word out beyond my department to try and inspire other people to implement integrative learning strategies in their classes. Just beginning the conversation about USC Connect and integrative learning has led to some productive discussions on how to incorporate more reflection and beyond-the-classroom experiences in any class as well as just being able to tell colleagues more about the GLD process."

Lara Ducate
German
Dept. of Languages, Literature, and Culture



Marj Pena
Biological Sciences
College of Arts and Sciences

"I saw the impact on a student that was able to see what they could do outside the classroom in a real career. It makes me look at my students in a new light. I'm teaching them science, but it goes far beyond that."

"Supporting students in identifying their key insights and how those can be applied, makes us better teachers. Working with students on their portfolios is a learning experience for students and professors alike; I get valuable insights from the way students go through the process to connect their experiences in the classroom and beyond. Seeing what students struggle with and what helps them make connections gives us ideas on how to improve our classes."

Myriam Torres
Epidemiology and Biostatistics
Arnold School of Public Health



USC Connect by the Numbers

APPROXIMATELY
447
RECOGNITIONS FOR GLD IN
2018-2019

APPROXIMATELY
800
GLD ADVISING APPOINTMENTS IN
2018-2019

GLD PATHWAY DISTRIBUTION (FALL 2018-SUMMER 2019)



■ Community Service (6%) ■ Diversity & Social Advocacy (2%)
■ Global Learning (21%) ■ Professional & Civic En.. (55%) ■ Research (16%)

UNIV 401
FALL 2018: 7 SECTIONS, 82 STUDENTS
SPRING 2019: 19 SECTIONS, 214 STUDENTS

Social Media Engagement



Followers: 2,000
We crested 2,000 followers
this year and our average
monthly tweet impressions
are 9,000!



Followers: 1,011
We crested 1,000 followers
this year! Our highest
number of followers are in
the 18-24 age range.



We have 446 likes and 481
followers from across the
US and 22 countries!

Choose Your Experiences, Search Our Database

The USC Connect Database located on our website, sc.edu/usconnect, is a visual way to explore all of the options students have to earn Graduation with Leadership Distinction. Our new initiative to promote experiential learning has promoted an update to the database in which now, students are able to search specifically for experiential learning opportunities as well as GLD opportunities. Students are able to plug in exactly what they're looking for including their time frame, campus, and area interest to see all that is offered that meets their preferences. experiential learning is the process of learning by reflection of doing, and can greatly enhance students college experience by giving them different ways to consider outcomes and connect their education to their real lives.

The Importance of Reflection

An Interview with Audrey Whelan, Spring 2018 Graduate
By Kelly Soder

Spring 2018 graduate Audrey Whelan looks back on her time at USC with nothing but a heart full of appreciation. She can especially credit her love for the university and some essential post-graduation skills to her time spent as an intern at USC Connect and earning Graduation with Leadership Distinction (GLD).

One of the main things that earning her GLD truly taught Audrey is that you need to reflect backwards, not ahead. Her own GLD pathway was Professional and Civic Engagement and she took the route of reflecting back on her time in Cockappella, a student co-ed acapella group. She realized that she had been questioning her dedication and involvement in the group as it did not relate to her double business major in marketing and management. "You can't stand at the start of an experience and have any idea of what you'll get out of it and how it was connected to the goals you had until you're at the end of the experience looking backwards," Audrey said. "That process of looking back -- I had no idea that all of these experiences beyond and in the classroom were interconnected until I sat down and genuinely thought about it." The reflection process involved in GLD made her realize that she could look back and see all of the tangible ways Cockappella had helped her grow as a leader and overcome her insecurities. She had the "ah-ha" moment of knowing that she can learn so much from whatever position she is currently in, she just needed to reflect and give herself the credit she deserved.



Post-grad, Audrey has a full plate and an open mind. She has not only has created her own business, Audrey Whelan Creative LLC, but she also works part-time in marketing for a company called Rams Head Group and runs the marketing team for a company her parents co-founded, Half Shell Adventures. With her own business, Audrey bounces around from making business cards to redesigning websites to even creating new logos for businesses. She actually credits the making of her own business' website to earning GLD.

The mix between interning with USC Connect and following through with the actual act of earning GLD taught Audrey many valuable technical skills such as how to make a newsletter, how to manage social media, how to make and maintain a website and more. On the other hand, the experience also taught her many life skills such as how to appropriately budget time, knowing when to go with her gut and stop taking other people's input over her own, and most importantly, that she should always challenge herself. "If it's not doing it for you, if it's not a challenge, change it," Audrey noted. Without the process of reflection, Audrey never would have had this internal light bulb go off telling her that her life doesn't need to look the same as every typical college graduate. Every day she wakes up and challenges herself to learn more, do better than the day before, throw away all inhibitions and just do what she thinks is right and remember that she is right on time with the season of her life.



OUTREACH

Throughout the year USC Connect participates in and hosts events to encourage integrative learning. During open houses, Hip Hop Wednesdays, and study abroad fairs, USC Connect is present to inform and offer guidance to students interested in pursuing GLD. Write Nite is a USC Connect initiative during which students are given the opportunity to take advantage of time, space, and resources to enable them to focus on finishing their ePortfolios.

OPEN HOUSE 2018



Noteworthy Events, Fall 2018 - Spring 2019

with approximate touch-points

Darla Moore School of Business Welcome Event:

390 students

Student Organization Fair:

180 students

STUDY ABROAD FAIR 2018



Tri-Beta Biology Honors Society:

50 students

Student Success Center Training Workshop:

150 students

HIP HOP WEDNESDAY 2018



Pre-Pharmacy Students Meeting:

40 students

Capstone Scholars Hot Cookie Friday:

35 students

WRITE NITE 2018



Resident Mentor Impact Fair:

60 students

Study Abroad Fair:

60 students

Community Service Fair:

60 students

FALL SHOWCASE 2018

Friday, November 9 // 2-4:30 PM
Russell House Ballroom



The Fall Showcase is held every November as a way for fall graduates to show off their within-and beyond-the-classroom efforts. Esteemed faculty and staff review the students work during the showcase for feedback and questions.

DISCOVER USC 2019

Friday, April 26 // 8:30 AM-4 PM
Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center

Discover USC is UofSC's annual showcase for research, scholarship, leadership and creative projects by students and scholars across the UofSC System. Hundreds of GLD students present their within-and-beyond-the-classroom learning every year.



CORDING CEREMONY 2019

Friday, April 30 // 5-6 PM
Russell House Ballroom



Every year the Office of the Provost and USC Connect recognize GLD graduates at a special cording ceremony. This year's esteemed guests included President Harris Pastides and Dr. John N. Gardner of the Gardner Institute.

USC Connect Publications and Accolades

Simon Tarr, Faculty Fellow, was named as **Faculty Principal** for Rhodos Fellows, Carolina's newest living and learning community that was launched at the beginning of the school year.



Dr. Elise Lewis was recently featured on UofSC's website discussing her teaching style (and research), which focuses on integrative learning. She takes an approach that teaches students to think outside of the box, a tool they will need when they enter the information science field.

Beth White, Faculty Fellow, was highlighted in UofSC Today for her approach to education and how she applies the concept of integrative learning to UofSC interns' work with elementary students. Through an embedded course at a local elementary school, Beth provides constant feedback to her interns to ensure they are providing a learning setting is authentic and with frequent opportunities to employ theory and beliefs into practice.



John Grady, Faculty Fellow from Sport Law, received the Betty van der Smissen Leadership Award from the Sport and Recreation Law Association at the organization's annual conference in Philadelphia.

Simon Tarr presented "Co Curricular Transformation for Leadership Distinction" at the annual meeting of the University Film and Video Association in Los Angeles, CA.

Laura Kissell promoted experiential learning through the School of Visual Art and Design's collaboration with Sustainable Carolina and Rhodos Fellows LLC to bring PlantBot 2.0 a satirical view of the possible evolution of plant species through modern agricultural practices.

Drs. Lara Ducate and **Lara Lomicka Anderson**, both faculty in Languages, Literatures and Cultures, authored "Engaging Students in Intentional Cultural Learning during Study Abroad" in *Issues in Language Program Direction: Social Pedagogies and Entwining Language with the World*.

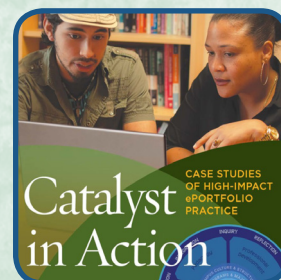
Dr. Irma Van Scoy, Executive Director of USC Connect, **Dr. Amber Fallucca**, Associate Director of USC Connect, and **Dr. Lara Ducate**, Professor in Languages, Literatures and Cultures published "**Building a Culture of Integrative Learning: A Story of Institutional Impact**" to highlight integrative learning and its impact on students.

USC Connect Publications and Accolades

Theresa Harrison, Assistant Director of USC Connect, received the first National Society of Experiential Education (NSEE) Diversity & Inclusion Scholarship! This scholarship awards her a year of NSEE membership and a mentor from the NSEE leadership.



USC Connect's unique work with ePortfolios was featured in a national publication "**Integrative Learning and Graduation with Distinction: ePortfolios and Institutional Change**" written by the USC Connect team and published in **Catalyst in Action: Case Studies of High-Impact ePortfolio Practice** by Bret Eynon and Laura Gambino.



Dr. Amber Fallucca, Associate Director of USC Connect, joined Bart Everson with the Center for the Advancement for Teaching and Faculty Development at Xavier University of Louisiana in a conversation on ePortfolios for the center's "Teaching, Learning, and Everything Else" podcast.

Theresa Harrison, Jabari Bodrick (LSC), Lisa D. Camp, Amber Fallucca, Ambra Hiott (LSC), and Ryan Patterson (LSC) collaborated on "Closing the Feedback Loop: Visible Learning with Intentional Reflection" in the Synergy Newsletter for NASPA's Student Affairs Partnering with Academic Affairs Knowledge Community.

USC Connect Staff Presentations

Amber Fallucca & Luis Sierra (LSC) Celebrating the Win/Win: Recommended Strategies for Successful Partnerships Between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs, NASPA Conference, March 2018

Lisa D. Camp, Oh, Now I Get It!: Using Reflection to Help Students Connect Course Learning to "Real World" Experience, CTE, September 2018

Amber Fallucca & Theresa Harrison, USC Connect: Promoting Integrative & Experiential Learning, NSEE Annual Conference, September 2018

Amber Fallucca, ePortfolio Practice and Assessment: Impact on Student Learning and Faculty Development, SACSCOC Annual Meeting, December 2018

Theresa Harrison & Ambra Hiott (LSC), Building a Culture of Leadership: A Campus Retrospective, Leadership Educators Institute, December 2018

Billy Quinlan & Haven Spanyer (Career Center), You Miss 100% of the Experiences You Don't Articulate - Wayne Gretzky, SLDC, February 2019

Thank you, Billy and Lisa!

At the end of this year Lisa D. Camp and Billy Quinlan, two of our student advisors, will be leaving USC Connect and heading off to new opportunities to help further their careers in the field of higher education. We asked both Billy and Lisa to share a few words reflecting on the time they have spent here at USC Connect and what their plans for the future entail.

Billy Quinlan, Graduate Assistant & Student Advisor

Most Cherished Memory: One of my many cherished memories of my time with USC Connect was during my experience as a co-instructor for the UNIV 401 for GLD course. Advising my students in articulating the meaning of their experiences through clear connections on a weekly basis was very rewarding. Seeing the progress that the students made from their first drafts to their final ePortfolio was fascinating, and those memories become even fonder as I hear of the great things those students have in their plans after their undergraduate careers at Carolina have come to an end.

Future Plans: I have accepted the position of Coordinator for Student Conduct and Carolina Judicial Council in the University of South Carolina's Office of Student Conduct & Academic Integrity. In this role, I will be tasked with adjudicating alleged violations of the Student Code of Conduct and the Honor Code. In addition to this, my responsibilities include advising and training the Carolina Judicial Council (CJC), a group of students, faculty and staff who hear appeals of alleged violations of university policy.

Incorporating USC Connect in the Future: My experience as a Graduate Assistant with USC Connect has provided me with extensive experience that will aid me in my future role. The student members of CJC are engaged in sustained training, practice, reflection, and feedback experiences as part of an Experiential Learning Opportunity constructed by the Coordinator. Within these activities, I will utilize my experience advising students through the GLD process and ePortfolio as a guide to ensure that CJC members are making meaningful connections between CJC and their other within and beyond the classroom experiences.

Lisa D. Camp, Student Advisor

Biggest Accomplishment: I'm not sure if I would call it an accomplishment, but anytime a student feels empowered by their own knowledge and it shows in their writing and presentations, I feel like we've done something right. A lot of students aren't fans of writing the way I am, so giving them tools and the language to say, "I appreciate your feedback, but no, I want to say it this way," is what's most important to me. I think many students feel as if they can't assert their expertise, but when they leave the university they'll be expected to, so helping a student learn to explain why they've made a choice in writing, presentation, layout, etc., and stick by those choices becomes really beneficial for them in the long run. I'm always proud of students when they learn to assert the validity of their experiences and how those experiences affect the choices they make and why.

Future Plans: I will be moving to New York to pursue a Ph.D. in English Literature with a focus on medieval literature at Cornell University. My academic work is interdisciplinary within the field, and I tend to make connections between older texts and newer ones (my master's thesis connected poetry focused on the legend of King Arthur and a series of Batman comics). I think these connections are definitely a result of working with USC Connect and helping students make connections for as long as I have and I look forward to learning more about how to make old texts exciting for new readers, and how to teach different texts than those in the traditional canon.

Incorporating USC Connect in the Future: Since I'm returning to full-time student status, I'll be looking for ways to get involved on campus and use my experiences to help others. I'm considering applying for graduate student government and finding student groups to help build a community for my time at Cornell and thinking about how to share the knowledge I've gained over ~5 years as an advisor with my peers. Most importantly, though, I'm planning to include integrative learning in my teaching methods to help students think about how course content might be related to or relevant for their experiences outside of my classes. I've learned in this role that nobody teaches alone because students are always being taught by a multitude of people and experiences at any given time, so I intend to teach in a way that recognizes that the concepts don't exist in a vacuum but have "real world" implications.

A Letter from Dr. Irma Van Scoy

Dear Colleagues and Friends of USC Connect,

I hope you have enjoyed our annual snapshot of the University of South Carolina's integrative learning initiative: USC Connect. As in past years, this ISSUU reflects our engagement with students, faculty, and staff at USC Columbia and the Palmetto College campuses.

As I look back on our work over the last 8 years (which I get to do since I am about to retire), here are some collective points of pride realized through the wisdom and efforts of many:

- Graduation with Leadership Distinction (GLD) in five pathways—we are rapidly closing in on our 2,000th GLD completer!
- Faculty and staff engagement in developing integrative learning from workshops to conferences to grants and, most of all, through ongoing collaboration as faculty fellows and UNIV 401 instructors.
- Centralized resources and strong partnerships within and across academic and student affairs and across our campuses.
- National recognition through awards, publications, and presentations highlighting GLD, integrative learning strategies (e.g., ePortfolios), and assessment for meaningful program change.

Integrative learning is complicated, yet Carolina made the hard choice to make it a priority. I am inspired by all those supporting the work of meaningful connections across experiences and our outstanding students who are so highly engaged and making the most of their education.

There is still much to do. We look toward next steps including experiential learning for all undergraduates and systematic support for integrative learning from students' first-year through graduation. There is a great team at USC Connect and throughout the University to carry on and bring us to the next level.

With gratitude for the opportunity to be part of the USC Connect story, Forever to Thee—

Irma



Introducing our new Leadership Team

Dr. Lara Ducate, Professor of German, will be the Faculty Executive Director of USC Connect beginning June 12, 2019. Dr. Ducate came to USC in 2003 and has worked with USC Connect since the inception of Graduation with Leadership Distinction in 2014. She has served as a USC Connect Faculty Fellow, UNIV 401 GLD instructor, and most recently, the USC Connect Senior Faculty Associate.

Dr. Amber Fallucca, Associate Director of USC Connect, will add a new role as Director of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). USC Connect is the university's 2011-2021 QEP. Dr. Fallucca, who has an extensive background in assessment in higher education, will lead efforts in development of the 2021 QEP which we anticipate will extend and deepen the work of USC Connect.



USCCONNECT

STAFF

2018-2019

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
- Billy Quinlan**, Graduate Assistant
- Kelly Soder**, Marketing and Communications Intern
- Tori Mengelkamp**, Digital and Social Media Intern

Legare College
902 Sumter Street
Columbia, SC 29208
(803) 777-3272
www.sc.edu/usconnect