



South Carolina Sociologist



Dear Friend of SCSA,

Thank you so much for reading the spring issue of the *South Carolina Sociologist* – the newsletter of the South Carolina Sociological Association. Katya Terry has done another fantastic job as editor.

We have had a busy few months here at the SCSA. We had another terrific annual meeting in Florence, SC. Past-President Rusty Ward (Francis Marion) and Nancy Rhoads (Allen University) have rotated off the Executive Board. I thank them both for their excellent service. Joining us this year as a new member on the Executive Board is Colby King (USC-Upstate).

The Carolina Undergraduate Social Science Symposium (which is sponsored by the SCSA and is now in its 46th year!) was held at Lander University in Greenwood, SC, April 20-21. Lane Riley (Lander, '12) delivered a terrific keynote talk, “Transforming Rural America through Research and Partnerships,” on Thursday night. On Friday, approximately 50 undergraduate students from around the state presented their research projects. It was a very successful event. Many thanks to Zach Rubin at Lander for organizing the symposium, and to all the faculty who encouraged their students to share their work at CUSSS. We hope to announce the dates and location of CUSSS 2024 soon.

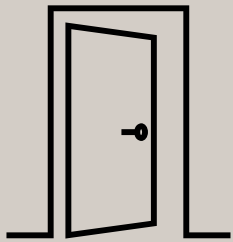
Looking ahead to next year, the SCSA Annual Meeting in 2024 will take place Friday, February 23- Saturday, February 24 in downtown Greenville, SC. Clemson University, Furman University, and USC Upstate are the institutional sponsors. On Friday, an Evening Reception and Poster Session will be held at the Clemson University School of Nursing in Greenville. On Saturday, the SCSA conference will be held at the Clemson University Greenville One Building. The theme of the 2024 SCSA meeting is “The Value of Sociology in Changing Times.” Jennifer Schlosser (Coastal Carolina University) is Program Chair. An official Call for Participation will be announced in late August/early September. We will look forward to seeing you in Greenville!

I hope you will enjoy our Spring Newsletter.

All the best,

Daniel Harrison,

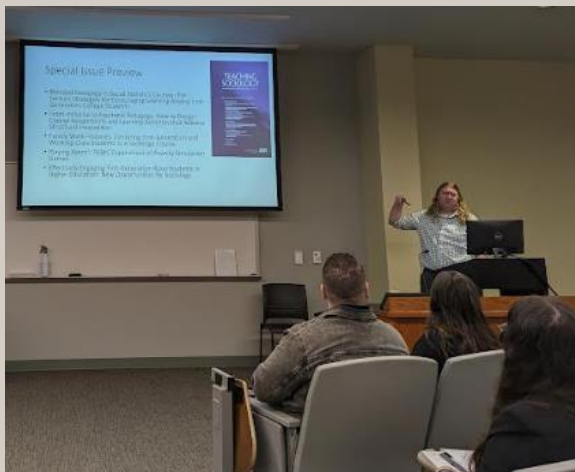
President, South Carolina Sociological Association



Opening Doors: Fostering Intercollegiate and Interdisciplinary Partnerships

2023 SCSA Annual Meeting was a great success!

The 2023 SCSA Annual Meeting was held in Florence, SC on February 24-26, 2023. Hosted by Francis Marion University, the conference offered sociologists and other social scientists from across South Carolina an opportunity to share experiences regarding intercollegiate and interdisciplinary partnerships, discuss ideas for future partnerships, celebrate achievements and mishaps, and learn from experts. Laura Jean Kerr (Lander University) and Jennifer Schlosser (Coastal Carolina University) were Program Co-Chairs. The conference started with an evening reception on Friday night at the beautiful Francis Marion Performing Arts Center. The next day, Saturday, was filled with thematic paper sessions, research presentations, panels, workshops, and poster sessions. Saturday concluded with a reception at the Gately Gallery in downtown Florence. Sunday morning program consisted of the business meeting during which members elected the new Executive Board and voted on a few changes to the SCSA bylaws.



For information about conference sessions, abstracts, and the program schedule, please see the full [SCSA 2023 Annual Meeting Program](#).

Welcome!

SCSA and Coastal Carolina University (CCU) welcome Dr. Danny Malone Jr., Assistant Professor of Criminology as CCU begins a new Criminal Justice Major. Dr. Malone comes to CCU after spending six years at Coker University, a private, comprehensive university located in Hartsville, SC, where he earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor of Sociology and Criminology.



In his short time at CCU, Dr. Malone has published two book chapters “Be Bold, Be You: My Blackademic Journey” in *Black Faculty Do It All* and “Both Sides of the Fence” in *Don’t Forget About the Adjuncts!*. His peer-reviewed article “Not Me, Not Here: Adjunct Faculty Experiences with Grade Inflation at U.S. Colleges and Universities” will be published in May 2023 in the *American Journal of Qualitative Research*. Recently, Dr. Malone presented “School-to-Prison Pipeline: Manifestation Determination as a Relief Valve?” at the SCSA Annual Meeting in Florence, SC and, with colleague Kelli Smith, “Neutralization Theory and the NFL’s Domestic Violence Issues: A Case Study Analysis” at the Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach, SC.



2023 SCSA Awards



Excellence in Scholarship



This award recognizes a SCSA member who has made outstanding scholarly and creative contributions to sociology. The 2023 award was presented to Dr. Leslie Hossfeld, Dean of the College of Behavioral, Social and Health Sciences at Clemson University. Leslie has been involved in the SCSA since 2018. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in History, a master's degree in Social Science, and a Ph.D. in Sociology. Much of Leslie's research focuses on rural economic development strategies, most recently targeting persistent poverty counties in South Carolina around social determinants of health, specifically the food environment and food and nutrition security. Over the past three years, Leslie has published nine co-authored peer reviewed publications, one single authored peer reviewed publication, one co-authored peer reviewed edited volume, one co-authored technical report, and has received nine research grants to support research and programmatic work totaling approximately 4.7 million dollars. As a colleague writes, this person's work "illustrates the power of sociological research for informing policy and practice and advancing scholarly knowledge on issues of critical importance." We are very fortunate to have Dr. Leslie Hossfeld in our state and involved in our organization. Congratulations to Dr. Leslie Hossfeld of Clemson University as the recipient of the SCSA Excellence in Scholarship Award!

Excellence in Teaching

This award recognizes a SCSA member who has made outstanding contributions to sociology through their innovative and impactful teaching. The 2023 award was presented to Dr. Colby King, Assistant Professor of Sociology at USC Upstate. Colby has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science, a master's degree in Sociology, and a Ph.D. in Sociology. In addition to being very busy and productive scholar, Colby is known as being a truly impressive teacher, who enjoys and excels at teaching courses such as Introductory Sociology, Statistics, Urban Sociology, the Sociology of Art, and the Sociology of Social Class. Colby is especially effective at bringing sociology alive for his students through walking tours, public art displays, and investigation of local workplaces. According to the Chair of the Sociology Department, student learning surveys in his courses are consistently strong and positive across all measures, and praise his responsive, engaging, and supportive approach. Colby's teaching assignments have been published in TRAILS, the ASA teaching and learning library; he is a regular contributor to W.W. Norton's Everyday Sociology Blog, and he is currently working on a special issue of Teaching Sociology related to teaching sociology for first-generation students and working-class persons. We are very happy that Colby decided to relocate to our state and join our organization. Congratulations to Dr. Colby King of USC Upstate as the inaugural recipient of the SCSA Excellence in Teaching Award!



2023 SCSA Poster Awards

This award recognizes best posters presented during the SCSA Annual Meeting.

First Place:

Noah Reynolds
Clemson University

“The War on ‘Indians’: Colonialism and Indigenous Recidivism in Canada and the US”

Second Place:

Darja Beinenson
Clemson University

“The Rates of Child Maltreatment During COVID-19: A Review of Existing Empirical Evidence”



CLEMSON

*launches
produce
prescription
program in
Abbeville, SC*

The Clemson University College of Behavioral, Social, and Health Sciences (CBSHS) and Clemson Rural Health, in partnership with Abbeville Area Medical Center, United Christian Ministries of Abbeville County free clinic, and Feed and Seed, are launching a produce prescription and nutritional education program for income-limited patients with Type 2 diabetes in Abbeville County. The program “Fresh for Life” will utilize funding from the USDA Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program to help people better understand the links between nutritious foods, healthy lifestyle and diabetes treatment and prevention. For more information about this initiative, checkout [Clemson News article](#).

Research

Does the type of return postage affect response rates in follow-up mailings?



Experimental findings from a citizen satisfaction survey

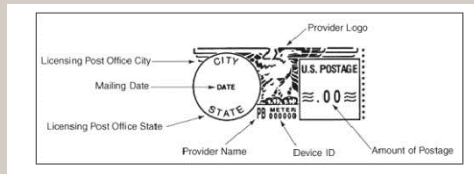
Francis Marion University



*Citizen Satisfaction Survey
for the Florence County
Sheriff's Office*

Hello! The purpose of this survey is to understand how citizens of Florence County evaluate problems in their neighborhood, how they feel about their personal and neighborhood safety, and to learn about their perceptions of the Florence County Sheriff's Office. Please DO NOT put your name on this questionnaire. Your participation is completely confidential and voluntary. No results will be attributed to any particular person. Thank you in advance for your efforts!

Some research suggests that a strategic use of postage on return envelopes influences response rates because stamps may create dissonance, signal personalization, or introduce novelty. To test these hypotheses, Dr. Rusty Ward used data from a community sample (N = 292) to examine return postage and response rates rather than the more common practice of obtaining data from an initial wave. Chi-square analysis revealed no association between type of return postage and response rates. One explanation for this finding may be that follow-up mailings capture a higher proportion of disinterested citizens with respect to the survey.



Conventional understandings of how dissonance, personalization, or novelty might influence survey behavior may be less applicable in a follow-up sample. Perhaps the safest conclusion drawn from this study is that stamped return envelopes in a follow-up mailing to citizens provide no apparent cost, labor, or time advantage compared to the use of metered reply mail.

Dr. Ward's article appears in the peer-reviewed journal, [Survey Methods: Insights from the Field](#). Dr. Ward is the Joan and Garry Gladstone Professor of Sociology at Francis Marion University.

USC Upstate's Sociology Program to Begin Offering Community Development Studies

The Sociology program at USC Upstate will begin offering a concentration in Community Development Studies for Sociology majors in the Fall 2023 semester. The effort is spearheaded by Department Chair Dr. Lizabeth Zack and developed with Dr. Calvin Odhiambo and Dr. Colby King.

The concentration will better serve student interests and community needs. This concentration will primarily serve Sociology majors with a focused interest in community development, solving social problems, and promoting healthy community growth in one of the fastest growing regions in the country. The need for professionals with skills in social and cultural competency, communication, collaboration, research, and knowledge about community growth is strong in South Carolina and should remain strong as the state continues to grow and develop. The need, which extends into the public, private, and non-profit sectors, is a consequence of population growth, greater emphasis on safety and security, the need for greater professional development among community development and social service professionals, and desire for improved quality of life as reflected in regional community initiatives. Local and regional employers in these fields recognize community development as an academic area through which students develop important skills.

The degree will meet the need of current and prospective students seeking a broad undergraduate degree with a focus in serving the community and addressing regional challenges related to growth. For a full description of the USC Upstate Community Development Studies concentration please click [here](#). If you would like more information about the program, please contact Lizabeth Zack (lzack@uscupstate.edu) or Colby King (KingCR@uscupstate.edu).

Congratulations!



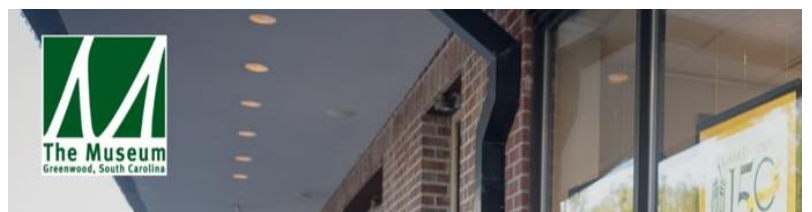
Dr. Vinetta Goodwin Witt was named to the Board of Trustees for Self Regional Healthcare. Dr. Witt retired from Newberry College as Chair of the Social & Behavioral Sciences Department. She was awarded faculty emeritus at the college.

Currently, Vinetta is the organizational manager for Generational Treasures, LLC. Previously, Dr. Witt served as president of the SCSA and on committees within the American Sociological Association. Additionally, she served as president of the Board of Trustees for the South Carolina Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Currently, Dr. Witt is a member of the American Association of University Women, SC State Alumni, and the University of SC Alumni Associations. She serves on several ministries at Mount Moriah Baptist Church including the Deaconess Ministry, Liturgical Dance Ministry, and the Couples Ministry.

Daniel M. Harrison, Professor of Sociology at Lander University, and his book *Making Sense of Marshall Ledbetter: The Dark Side of Political Protest* (2014, University Press of Florida) were featured in a documentary film, *Smoking Raven in the Eye of the Great Storm: The Ballad of Marshall Ledbetter*, made by graduate students in Florida State University's School of Communication. The film can be viewed [here](#).



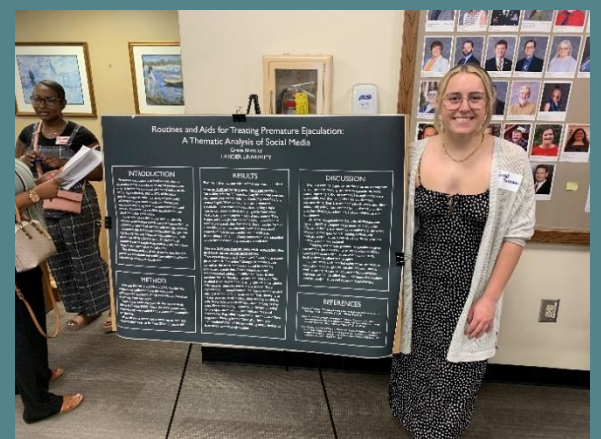
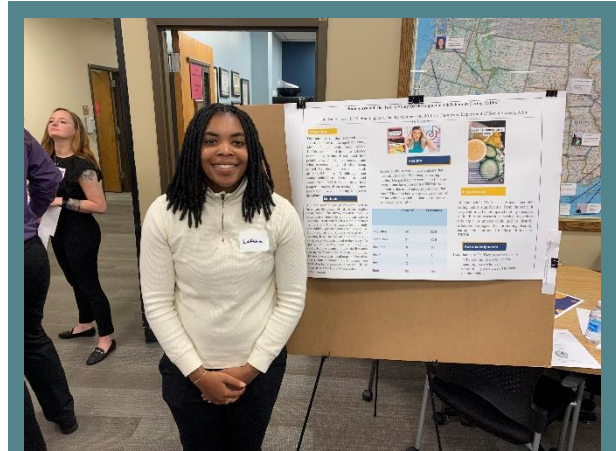
Harrison's second book, *Live at Jackson Station: Music, Community, and Tragedy in a Southern Blues Bar* (2021, University of South Carolina Press) is currently featured in "The Blues Exhibit" at Greenwood Museum in Greenwood, SC. The exhibit runs through July 16, 2023.



SCSA and Lander University held the annual Carolina Undergraduate Social Science Symposium (CUSSS) on April 20-21, 2023 in Greenwood, SC

The Symposium provides undergraduate students the opportunity to present their research at a professional meeting with the support of faculty. Presentations are based on research that students have created or been involved in, perhaps in one of their upper-level social science courses.

Lane Riley presented the keynote address “Transforming Rural America Through Research and Partnerships” (pictured here with Dan Harrison and Zach Rubin before her presentation)



Paper and Presentation Competition

First Place Winner: *James Creel, Francis Marion University (Sociology)*, “The Importance of The Significant Other: Influencing Factors on Mental Health Care Perceptions”

Second Place Winner: *Shevonne’ Favor, University of South Carolina Aiken (Sociology)*, “Workplace Discrimination Due to Race, Age, & Sex”

Poster Competition

First Place Winner: *Eden Briley, University of North Carolina – Wilmington (Criminology and Psychology)*, “Crime on UNCW’s Campus: A Quantitative and Qualitative Assessment”

Second Place Winner: *Jewel Leopard, Lander University (Psychology)*, “Autism Self-Diagnosis in a Digital World”

Take a look at the [2023 CUSSS program](#) and enjoy the [2023 CUSSS photo album!](#)

South Carolina
**Creative Sociology
Writing Competition**

Students from any discipline are encouraged to write inspiring pieces to combine the Sociological Imagination and the craft of writing to cultivate perspective-taking among readers.

We invite submissions of short fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction that explore the theme:

**Empathy
& Science**

First Prize: \$500
Second Prize: \$300
Third Prize: \$200

Contest Closes Wednesday, September 25, 2023

Review submission guidelines at
coastal.edu/soc/creativesoc

Congratulations!



Laura Jean Kerr, Lecturer of Sociology at Lander University, successfully defended her doctoral dissertation

Examining Food Insecurity Among Mississippi Community College Students at Mississippi State University.
Congratulations, Dr. Kerr!



Katya Terry, Sociology Instructor at Piedmont Technical College and SCSA Newsletter Editor, was one of three PTC employees honored recently as Outstanding Educators for the 2021-2022 academic year by the South Carolina Technical Education Association (SCTEA) at its annual conference in Myrtle Beach in February. Katya received Educator of the Year in the Faculty category, Ms. Lynn Slater was recognized in the Staff category and Dr. Keli Fewox in the administrator category.



Save the Date! 2024 SCSA Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars for the 2024 SCSA Annual Meeting in downtown Greenville next year, Friday and Saturday, February 23-24! Clemson University, Furman University, and USC Upstate are institutional hosts. Jenny Schlosser (Coastal Carolina) is the Program Chair for the conference. The Evening Reception will be held on Friday February 23, 2024 at the Clemson University School of Nursing, 605 Grove Road Greenville and the main conference will take place on Saturday February 24th, 2024 at the [Clemson University Greenville One Building](#).

More information about the upcoming conference will be posted on the [SCSA website](#).

If you would like to contribute to the Fall 2023 issue of the SCSA newsletter, please email terry.c@ptc.edu

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