



Office of the Provost
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA



**Student Affairs and
Academic Support**
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

SPOTLIGHT ON FACULTY ~~PRINCIPALS~~ DIRECTORS

Provost Bi-Weekly Check-In

Speakers:

Lara Lomicka Anderson, Interim Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies

Kirsten Kennedy, Associate Vice President for the Residential Experience



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U.S. NEWS: USC ADVANCES IN LEARNING COMMUNITIES



Living and learning communities advanced in this year's rankings to No. 5 among public institutions and to No. 13 overall.



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ACADEMIC EXPERIENCES + RESIDENTIAL EXPERIENCES



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WHAT IS LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITY (LLC)?

- LLCs are communities of students that **live together in the residence halls** and **have shared interests** (academic and/or personal) that **often cut across traditional majors and degree programs**.
- LLCs encourage students to **meet new people, network with faculty, and engage in the local community**. LLCs provide opportunities and support for **undergraduate research, experiential learning, and education abroad**.
- LLCs have **shared oversight**: Office of the Provost (Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies) & Student Affairs (Associate Vice President for the Residential Experience)



Maker Space



Preston's
faculty
residential
space



FACULTY-LED COMMUNITY BENEFITS



With higher faculty-student interaction, the following areas show positive outcomes:

- Increased GPA (Anaya & Cole, 2001)
- Increased persistence (Pascarella & Terenzini, 1977)
- Higher self-reported learning (Lundberg & Schreiner, 2004)
- More social integration (Schwitzer et al., 1999)
- Increased critical thinking, cognitive complexity, appreciation for liberal learning (Inkelas, et al., 2008)

--The quality of interaction is important – more focused interaction can have a higher impact on knowledge acquisition and skill development (Kuh & Hu, 2001)

--Faculty presence matters in living learning communities (Eidum et al, 2020)



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FACULTY-LED COMMUNITIES: GPA & RETENTION RATES

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
LLC GPA	3.52	3.52	3.62
Non LLC GPA	3.29	3.37	3.51
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
LLC Retention	90%	91%	93%
Non LLC Retention	85%	89%	90%



USC'S LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITIES

- USC currently has 7 Living Learning Communities (LLCs) that are led by faculty members.
- #8 Living learning community will open in fall 2024
 - First-Gen Living Learning Community



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WHO ARE FACULTY DIRECTORS?

- **Faculty Directors** are faculty members that provide **direction** and **vision** to the LLC.
- They work closely with residential life staff to create **co-curricular programs** that align with what students are learning.
- They help students **connect** to other **faculty** in more **intentional** ways.

Prioritized 4 Goals:

1. Support for Academic Attainment
2. Connecting Students to USC
3. Connections to Faculty Director
4. LLC specific goal based on theme



LET'S MEET OUR FACULTY DIRECTORS



Elise Lewis,
Faculty
Director for
Capstone
Scholars



Alicia Flach,
Faculty
Director for
Galen Health
Fellows



Bre Grace,
Faculty
Director for
Global
Fellows



Ed Gatzke,
Faculty
Director for
LEAF at Green
Quad



David Cutler,
Faculty
Director for
I.D.E.A.



**Armen
Shaomian,**
Faculty Director
for Preston
Residential
College for
Leadership



**John
Gerdes,**
Faculty
Director for
Rhodos

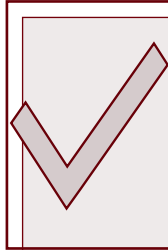


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WHAT DOES A FACULTY DIRECTOR DO?



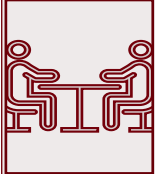
Set the mission and vision for the LLC



Organize academic programming around community goals



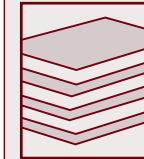
Offer travel and research funding; Lead Ed Abroad for LLC



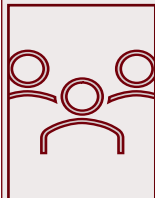
Work with campus partners



Host weekly meetings with students



Coordinate peer mentoring programs



Supervise/Onboard LLC staff



Lead scholar programs



Teach courses in the LLC



CAPSTONE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

- Invitation-only community for high-ability students, one of the Carolina Elite programs
- 2-year program, open to all majors
- We focus on the beyond-the-classroom experience in our programming and grant opportunities
 - Global studies
 - Research
 - Service
 - Leadership Development
 - Career Readiness
 - Wellness
- U101 is our common academic experience, over 50 sections F2023

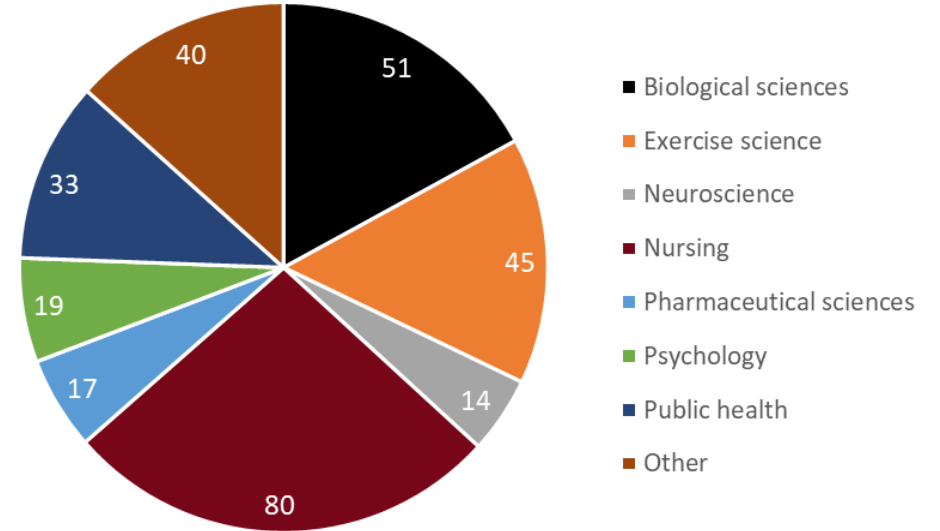


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GALEN HEALTH FELLOWS

- Health Sciences Students Across Colleges on Campus
- Learning experiences aligned with 5 Pillars
- Education abroad collaboration with Global Fellows LLC
- Collaboration with South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium (AHEC)

Galen Student Majors (2023 Cohort)



Study abroad & international research opportunities
+ grant support/funding

Department & college connections for speakers, visiting fellows, & affiliate faculty

First year student academic living community & support

Cross cultural appreciation & learning

Cultural & Community engagement, service, & research opportunities



global

FELLOWS



Social support & a social work intern for establishing healthy community & student retention

International internships & prestigious fellowship preparation

Language conversation & learning opportunities

Immersive language living communities

Community dinners & social hours



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THE I.D.E.A. COMMUNITY

Spanning wide-ranging majors and backgrounds, our residents aspire to become **big thinkers, entrepreneurial leaders, and positive agents of change.**

Innovation

Design

Entrepreneurship

Action



- We are launching a student-run business!
- Weekly events connected to community themes
- Big IDEA grants
- Linked classes
- Networking nights & mentorship opportunities



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GREEN QUAD INITIATIVES



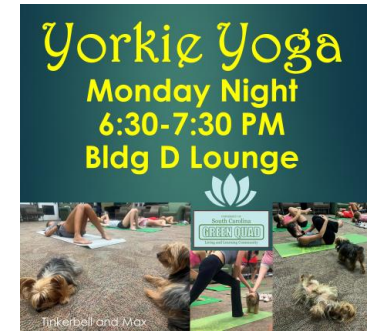
LEAF

LEADING ENVIRONMENTAL & ACADEMIC FUTURES

GREEN QUAD

Rebranding for 2024 as
LEAF at Green Quad

- Student Engagement
 - Coffee, Cokes, Campfire
 - Hikes / Camping trips
- Support and Enrichment
 - Mentoring / Info sessions
- Service and Outreach
 - Rocky Branch / Garden volunteers
- Sustainability Education
 - Sustainability Suppers
 - U290 Sustainability Seminar
- Green Scholars - Students active in community who may apply for:
 - Scholarships and travel grants
 - Research or project support



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PRESTON RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE FOR LEADERSHIP

Developing **leaders**, creating **community**, transforming the world

- **USC's only Residential College**
 - **Live-in** faculty director
 - Faculty associates to foster connection to USC
 - Special courses reserved for Preston students
- **Diverse leadership development opportunities**
 - Preston Scholars Program, aligned with Graduation with Leadership Distinction
 - Leadership Conversation series (national guests, incl. diplomats, leaders, scientists)
 - Annual Leadership Weekend retreat
- **Research and Travel Grants**
- **Education Abroad collaboration with SPTE (Mexico City)**
- **Community events hosted by Faculty Principal and Preston student organizations**



RHODOS LLC – INNOVATIVE & CREATIVE DESIGN

- Diverse Community with over 20 majors
- Focus on Creative Design – A Community of Makers!
- Makerspace equipped with 3-D Printers, Laser Cutters, Sewing Machines, Podcasting Equipment, and Digital Cameras
- Activities
 - Technology Tutorials & Project Workshops
 - Biltmore Estate & Chihuly Glass Exhibit Field Trip
 - Linked classes
 - Research Support through our own Rhodos Magellan Grants.



NEW

USC'S FIRST-GEN CENTER AND LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITY



Interest form link

- Opening Fall '24
 - Empower First-Gen students and connect them with scholarships, research, ed abroad, peer and faculty mentoring
 - First-Gen LLC will be located in Maxcy College
 - 151 beds (50 returning students)
 - Faculty Director search will open in Spring '24
 - First-Gen LLC interest form (for students): <https://tinyurl.com/firstgenLLC>



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Q&A



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