MAGNIFY | 2022 Alumni Reunion Weekend Recap
After two years of canceling and postponing due to the pandemic, our Alumni Reunion Weekend finally returned April 1-3 to honor the 40th Anniversary of the Biomedical Sciences program and sixteen MD alumni classes, including the inaugural class of 1981. Although the invite list was long, we adjusted our plans to accommodate a smaller crowd that made for a very special three days. Those alumni who were able to attend experienced four intimate events throughout the weekend that helped facilitate deeper connections with each other and inspire reflection of their time at the SOMC.

2022 ARW PHOTO GALLERY

A significant staple for this weekend is the Class Reunion Challenge, during which those celebrating a reunion are encouraged to donate to the Alumni Scholarship Fund and support their class fundraising efforts towards winning awards and coveted titles. Together, our 2021 and 2022 MD reunion classes raised a total of $34,616 - a new ARW record! Congratulations to the challenge award winners!
We hope you'll save the date for our 2023 Alumni Reunion Weekend, slated to take place March 17-19 that will feature an invitation to experience Match Day alongside our MIV students and their proud families, as well as a reimagined gala fundraiser with the goal to promote the SOMC in the Columbia community and across the state. **If anyone is interested in joining the Gala Planning Committee, please contact Holly Jefferson.**

**FOCUS | Give 4 Garnet: #StriveFor25**

It's that time again! **Give 4 Garnet**, UofSC's university-wide day of giving, will be **Wednesday, May 18th from 5:59am until midnight.** For 18

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**Trailblazer Awards**
- Class of 1981 – Bonnie Ramsey
- Class of 1982 – Riddick Ackerman, III
- Class of 1986 – Anonymous
- Class of 1987 – Barry Sheppard
- Class of 1991 – D'Leave Girard
- Class of 1992 – Woodrow Bell
- Class of 1996 – Terrie Johnson and Mark & Janice Gibbons
- Class of 2002 – Rebecca Riley
- Class of 2006 – Anonymous
- Class of 2012 – Christopher Gainey

**Knockout Awards**
- Class of 1981 – $10,112
- Class of 1987 – $9,512
- Class of 1991 – $2,991
- Class of 1996 – $2,350
- Class of 2002 – $5,101
- Class of 2006 – $500
- Class of 2012 – $1,250
In honor of our US News and World Report #1 national ranking for the percentage of alumni practicing in underserved areas, Dr. Mike Ribadeneyra (‘96) and his wife, Evelyn, have pledged $100,000 to establish a scholarship for MD students at the SOMC. But, their first payment of $25,000 will be unlocked on Give 4 Garnet only after we as a SOMC family secure $25,000 to match their initial gift.

We need your help on this day to #StriveFor25 and make this scholarship a reality! That’s why we’re striving to raise $25,000, which will double the impact of the Ribadeneyra’s initial gift and boost the SOMC’s efforts to do what it does best – educate the next generation of medical professionals who have a passion to practice where they will make the most impact.

The need for quality healthcare professionals has never been greater, and our work to grow tomorrow’s healthcare workforce for the nation has never been more important.

On May 18th, click the button below to join the Ribadeneyras by making your gift to support the SOMC and help us raise $25,000.

#STRIVEFOR25 ON MAY 18TH

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**GROWTH | Welcome, Shannon Cheek!**

Join us in welcoming Shannon Cheek, the newest member of the Office of Advancement team, who will be serving as our events manager. With her extensive planning experience, she has established many relationships with vendors in the Midlands and has remained up-to-date with event trends that will benefit both our alumni engagement and development areas. Having
Shannon aboard to manage our office's events will give Holly and Paige more opportunities to personally connect with our alumni and students while also launching new engagement efforts.

Originally from Florence, SC, she made Columbia her home 10 years ago when she attended the University of South Carolina and graduated in 2012 with a degree in hotel, restaurant, and tourism management. Since graduation, she's been working in catering, venue management and event planning. "I am thrilled to apply my knowledge and experience to creating events for the UofSC School of Medicine Columbia’s students and alumni." She enjoys playing with her two dogs, Archie and Kailani, traveling with friends, and spending time with family. Click her photo above to say hello!

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**BREAKTHROUGH | Taking the Pulse: A Health Care Podcast with Dean Hall**

UofSC School of Medicine Columbia's dean, Les Hall, MD, was a featured guest on the weekly podcast, *Taking the Pulse*, where attorneys from Nexsen Pruet Health Care Practice Group and
co-host Heather Matthews take a current look at one of Carolina's largest industry sectors. Click the graphic above to watch episode 96 and their discussion about the SOMC and its impact on South Carolina and the nation, including updates regarding the impact the future health sciences campus will have on the state's economic growth.

DISCOVER | Engagement Opportunities & News

Join us as we say

Adios to the Class of 2022

Cinco de Mayo Lunch Drop-In

Wednesday, May 4 | 11am-1pm | Craft & Draft
JOIN US
May 13th
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
SPRING VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING

GIVE 4 GARNET
5.18.2022
A Gala is Coming

3.18.2023

FINALLY!
(Kinda late to the party, but we made it!)

Follow us on Instagram
@UofSCSOMC
TIME TO LAY IT ALL OUT ON THE TABLE

Looking for HOSTS from ALL DISCIPLINES working in the following areas:

PEDIATRICS • EMERGENCY MED
ORTHOPEDICS & SPORTS MED

TABLETALK SERIES
CLICK HERE TO BE CONSIDERED
Join the SOMC Alumni Private Group

Research. Clinical. Day to day. All medical careers.

Give the gift of your time.

Our students are looking for shadowing opportunities.

CLICK HERE TO VOLUNTEER
**REVERE | Class Kudos**

**Everlyn Hall-Baker, MD ('81)** was elected into the national honor medical society, Alpha Omega Alpha, by the SC Beta Chapter as one of two alumni nominees. She says, "I am so overwhelmed with gratitude to my medical school for bestowing this honor upon me! I am ever grateful to the courage that was instilled in me by the medical school to help many throughout the world; to GOD be ALL the GLORY for inspiring the creation of this School of Medicine in Columbia. May others continually recognize the treasure among us - SC SCHOOL OF MEDICINE COLUMBIA. Thank you so very much for EVERYTHING!" Congratulations, Dr. Hall-Baker!

**Louise Huang, MD ('88)** received Preceptor of the Year Award from the California Academy of Family Physicians. She retired from private practice in 2016, but has been a part-time preceptor at the Riverside University Health System Family Medicine Residency Program since 1996. Congratulations, Dr. Huang!

**Sloka Iyengar, PhD, PMP ('10)** debuted an online production looking at the convergence of dance and science, titled Vichaar. Each month, she plans to take an aspect of dance such as rhythm, percussion, movement, proprioception, pedagogy, and discuss its neuroscientific basis. **More in-depth information about the production can be accessed here**, and **check out her first episode on YouTube here**. Good luck in your endeavors, Dr. Iyengar!
Kelsey Snedecor Kushinka, MD ('18) was married to Marc Kushinka, MD on Saturday, April 9th in Columbia, SC. The happy couple resides in Columbia where they both completed their residencies at Prisma Health Midlands. Kelsey now practices at Palmetto Pediatric in Blythewood. Congratulations, Dr. Kushinka!

Brannon Traxler, MD ('08) was elected into the national honor medical society, Alpha Omega Alpha, by the SC Beta Chapter as one of two alumni nominees. Congratulations, Dr. Traxler!

Kylie Whittle, MD ('20) was elected as a 2022-23 Family Medicine Chief Resident at Prisma Health Midlands. Congratulations, Dr. Whittle!

Deadline to submit Class Kudos is May 16th.

The Office of Advancement
University of South Carolina School of Medicine Columbia

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Holly Jefferson, Director of Alumni Engagement and External Affairs
Emily Miles, Director of Communications and Marketing
Paige Stiles, Assistant Director of Alumni and Student Engagement
Susan Butler, Finance/University Foundations Administrative Coordinator
Michelle Edgar, Development Research Analyst and Stewardship Coordinator
Shannon Cheek, Events Manager

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