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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA AIKEN

Student Life Staff

Ahmed Samaha

Assistant Vice Chancellor of Student Life

(803)641-3411

ahmeds@usca.edu

"Don't sweat the small stuff."

Ahmed oversees the Student Government Association, Judicial Affairs, Leadership Programs, and Freshman Orientation.

Ahmed grew up in Key West, FL. He received his Bachelors of Arts degrees in History and Political Science both from Mercer University. He then attended the University of Georgia and received his Master's degree in Student Personnel in Higher Education. (Go Dawgs!) Ahmed is currently pursuing a Doctorate degree in Student Personnel from the University of South Carolina Columbia.

Ahmed and his wife, Kathy, met in college and they have been married for 15 years! They have two sons, Drew and Tucker. Ahmed has worked at USCA for 17 years and absolutely loves working here. When he's not at USCA, he can be found either reading, playing golf, watching reality shows, or enjoying one of his favorite things in life: sports!

Fun Fact: Ahmed played 2 years of Division I tennis.

Andy Kabasele

Director of Global Studies and Multicultural Engagement

(803) 641-3671

andyk@usca.edu



Andy works with international students, domestic students, faculty, and staff wishing to study abroad, and international initiatives.

Andy has 20 years of experience in the field of international education. His areas of expertise include: immigration, international admissions, international students recruiting, programming and study abroad. He served at NAFSA Education Abroad Committee as consular liaison affairs officer.

In 2010, Andy was selected by NAFSA and the German Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts to attend the Baden-Wurtemberg International Educators Seminars. In 2015, he was part of the US Department of State Benjamin Gilman Scholarship program selection committee. He speaks fluently seven languages, and he has visited 36 countries.

Angel Miano

Associate Director of Student Life

(803)641-3776

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"It all started with a mouse" - Walt Disney

Angel oversees Fraternity and Sorority Life, Student Organizations, the Student Activities Center, and Parent Orientation.

Originally from Franklin, KY, Angel relocated to Aiken in June of 2006. Prior to coming to Aiken she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English, Cum Laude, from the University of Kentucky in 2003 and a Master of Science in Education, Higher Education in 2006, also from the University of Kentucky.

Angel is currently married to Steve Miano, a graduate of USC Aiken. Currently, they have one son. Angel enjoys working because while it takes up a lot of her time, she believes she has the best job on earth!

Lauren Eldridge

Assistant Director of Student Life- Global Studies & Multicultural Engagement

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(803) 641-3442



Lauren oversees domestic diversity programs and initiatives, the Peer to Peer Mentor program, Guest Orientation (for the Transfer & Non Traditional Orientation), and serves as the advisor to African American Student Alliance and NAACP.

Lauren was born and raised on the south side of Chicago. She earned a Bachelor's Degree from Western Illinois University and a Masters of Science in Education at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA. She has lived in South Carolina since 2011. Lauren joined the Student Life team at USCA in July 2014. She enjoys traveling both near and far, antiquing, reading long novels, and people watching.

Rusty Caldwell

Assistant Director of Student Life

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Rusty oversees Pacer Union Board, Community Service Initiatives, and Transfer/Non Traditional Orientation.

Rusty is an USCA alum from the class of 2010 and also attended Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, TX where he obtained his Master of Arts in Kinesiology - Sport Management degree in May 2014. Rusty joined the Student Life Staff in August of 2016. Outside of work, Rusty loves to stay active and follow any sports that are in season!

Mandi Welch

Student Life Office Manager

(803)641-3634

mandia@usca.edu



Mandi was born and raised in Augusta, GA. She has two beautiful daughters, Bailey and Hannah and is married to her wonderful husband, George. Mandi has worked at USCA since June 2008 and feels like this is where she is meant to be. She loves her job and can't imagine ever working anyplace else. Mandi's hobbies are shopping, reading, sewing and baking. Especially baking for her fellow co-workers.

Fun Fact: She likes to dance to loud music while cleaning her house.

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