



South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

Mr. Kenneth B. Wingate, Chair
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Vice Chair
Douglas R. Forbes, D.M.D.
Mr. Kenneth W. Jackson
Dr. Raghuram K. Korrapati
Ms. Cynthia C. Mosteller
Mr. James R. Sanders
Mr. Y. W. Scarborough, III
Mr. Charles L. Talbert, III, CPA
Mr. Guy C. Tarrant, CCIM
Mr. Hood Temple
Charles B. Thomas, Jr., M.D.
Mr. Neal J. Workman, Jr.
Dr. Mitchell Zais

Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director

For Immediate Release

November 5, 2009

Contact: Rita Allison
Director of Communications
803-767-8352
rallison@che.sc.gov

Susan Anderson, Professor and Director of Dance at the University of South Carolina and Artistic Director of the University of South Carolina Dance Company, has been named the Governor's 2009 Professor of the Year for four-year institutions of higher education.

Susan Anderson began her career in Monterey, California, and credits her teacher, Madame Olga Ziceva from Russia's Kirov Ballet, with her ballet training. She continued dance studies at the San Francisco Ballet as a scholarship recipient and subsequently received the MFA from the University of California at Irvine under the legendary choreographer Eugene Loring. Her professional dance career was with Ballet Celeste of San Francisco, Los Angeles Dance Theatre, and Moving South.



Professor Anderson is the founding director of the USC Dance Company, USC Dance Conservatory, and the South Carolina Summer Dance Conservatory, which hosts international students and world-renowned faculty and choreographers. Under her directorship, the dance program recently implemented the BA major in Dance which is currently 85 majors strong. The BA degree track in Performance/Choreography has concentrations in Ballet and Contemporary Dance. In Fall 2006, the dance program began the BA degree in Dance Education, a K-12 Teacher Certification program in partnership with the College of Education. The dance program now has more than 65 course offerings and approximately 3,000 students enrolled each year taking dance courses.

Some of Susan Anderson's professional artistic works include the creation of 105 ballets such as *Scheherazade*; *Ondine*; *Taming of the Shrew*; *Planet Dance* with artist Blue Sky; *The Firebird*; *Phantom of the Night*; *Crown Jewels*; *Sylvia*; *Carnival of the Animals*; *Pleasures of Paris*; *Don Quixote*; and *The Young Man and Death*. She has choreographed and taught master classes for Gus Giordano Dance Company in Chicago; the University of California; the University of Buffalo; the University of Georgia; Several Dancers Core in Atlanta; Murray State; the Knoxville Dance Theatre; Loyola University; the Inco Ballet in Colombia, South America; and the Staatliche Opera in Gera, Germany.

As a teacher, she has had the privilege of coaching and teaching Jessica Teague, Soloist with the National Ballet of Sweden; Jillian Murphy, Principal Ballerina with American Ballet Theatre; Karen Gibbons Brown, Artistic Director of the Fort Wayne Ballet; and most recently, Chrissy Whitehead, who has been seen on Broadway in the musical of *A Chorus Line*.

Her significant administrative and academic achievements also include the awarding of 30 financial grants for the USC Dance Company; an invitation to the 16th Annual Fiesta España with the USC Dance Company in

Costa del Sol, Spain; Teacher Certification in Russian Ballet Pedagogy from the Tbilisi Choreographic Institute; and being named USC Advisor of the Year by USC Student Affairs.

Professor Anderson's research on "Somatics and Demographic Variables of Elite Female Dancers" was presented at the National Convention of the American Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, and has been published in several international journals. She continues her work in the reconstruction of the Feuillet-Beauchamps notation of baroque dance, opera, and ballet.

Christopher Charles Thomas, Instructor of Psychology at Florence-Darlington Technical College has been named as 2009 Governor's Professor of the Year for two-year colleges.

Chris Thomas of Hartsville, South Carolina, has been an Instructor of Psychology at Florence-Darlington Technical College (FDTC) since 1999. Before his full-time faculty position at FDTC, Chris served as adjunct instructor of Psychology at Horry-Georgetown Technical College and as an instructor at the Francis Marion University Psychology Laboratory.



Chris earned his undergraduate degree in Psychology at Coastal Carolina University and continued his education with a Master's degree from Francis Marion University. While working as a college instructor, Chris worked as a counselor with Horry County mental health providers.

At FDTC, Chris serves as a sponsor of the Global Issues Club and has helped spearhead a campus-wide recycling effort. Chris was named FDTC's Instructor of the Year in 2009 and represented the college in the South Carolina Technical Education Association's Instructor of the Year competition.

A luncheon in honor of the Governor's Professors of the Year and the Distinguished Professors who were nominated for the award by their respective institutions was held today at the Campus Room of the Capstone Building at the University of South Carolina-Columbia. **Courtesy of a donation from the McNair Law Firm, the luncheon was hosted by the South Carolina Higher Education Foundation, who is the sponsor of the Governor's Professor of the Year Event each year.**

Finalists for the Professor of the Year are:

Dr. Richard Boan – Midlands Technical College
Dr. Carl P. Eby – USC-Beaufort
Ms. Sharon B. Folk – USC-Salkehatchie
Dr. Antonis Katsiyannis- Clemson University
Dr. Chad L. Leverette – USC-Aiken
Dr. Salvador Macias, III – USC Sumter
Dr. Monica L. McCoy – Converse College
Dr. Janie Sigmon – York Technical College

For additional information on the Governor's Professor of the Year Award, please visit www.che.sc.gov and click on "Professor of the Year" for a picture and bio of each winner.