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AED ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



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WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

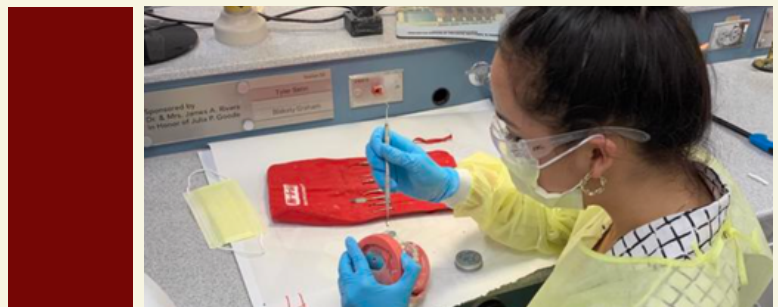
"I'm graduating soon, and I want to stay involved in the AED alumni community"

A Google form will be sent out at the end of each semester to the graduating class. This form will allow you to express interest in being contacted after graduation for alumni opportunities.

"I know an AED alumnus who is interested in being featured"

Share the contact information of any interested alumnus to Aleena Chattha at chattha@email.sc.edu.

Do you have feedback on how to improve the alumni newsletter? Scan this QR code!



CHECK OUT UOFSCAED.COM FOR MORE RESOURCES!

After graduating, Meagan went straight into PT school at MUSC with only a two week break before starting! She graduated this past May and is now working full time as a pelvic floor physical therapist.

A pelvic floor physical therapist specializes in treating dysfunctions of the pelvic floor muscles and organs. This involves assessing conditions like urinary incontinence and sexual dysfunction through personalized treatment plans that include exercises, manual therapy, biofeedback, and lifestyle modifications.



Meagan Jacobin
Pelvic Floor Physical Therapist



Jade Hannan

MI at USF College of Medicine

After graduating with majors in neuroscience and French, Jade returned to her hometown of Jacksonville, Florida, where she worked for one year as a Clinical and Research Assistant in a veteran-focused TBI clinic. She began medical school at the University of South Florida in July 2025.



Hadi Bouali

D3 at Dental School

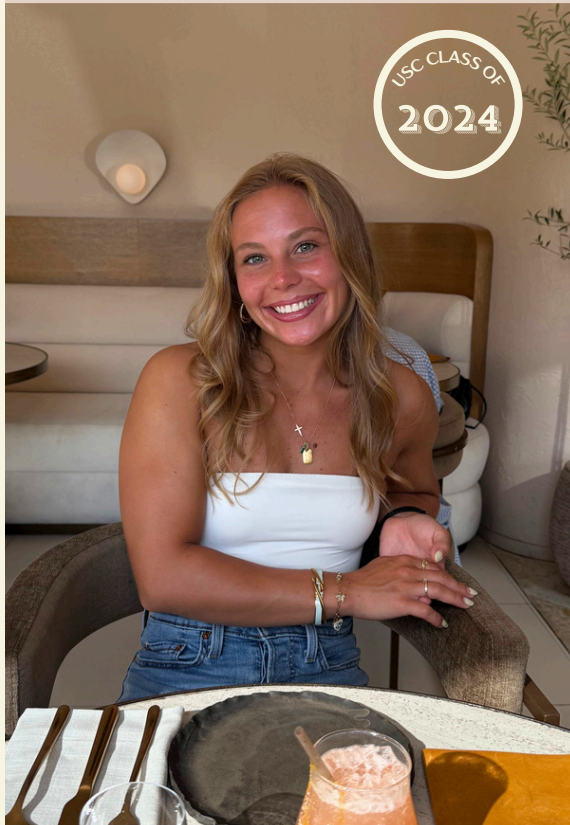
Hadi is currently in his third year of dental school and is pursuing a future career in oral and maxillofacial surgery. Despite the demands of his program, he continues to enjoy his lifelong hobbies like tennis and ping pong, and this year he's found more time to travel and connect with friends.

WHAT ALUMNI DID DURING THEIR GAP YEAR(S)!

EMMA BRAUNER

Emma graduated with a B.S. in Biology and a minor in Sociology. After graduation, she moved to Charleston, where she gained valuable clinical experience working as a medical assistant, medical scribe, and clinical research coordinator. She chose to take time off from school after COVID disrupted much of her sophomore through senior years to avoid burnout, and she is so thankful she did! During this break, she learned so much in a clinical setting that ultimately strengthened her medical school application.

Emma is now an M1 at MUSC in Charleston. While medical school differs from undergrad in the sheer amount of information and the intensity of the schedule, she feels her time at USC with AED, along with her 2.5 years of clinical experience, have prepared her well for the challenges ahead. She is excited to continue her journey and looks forward to the next four years!



KEARA CRONIN

Keara shares that “post-graduation has been an adjustment to say the least, especially living at home.” She began her gap year working as a medical assistant at a primary care office outside of Boston, where she also earned her CMA certification. In May 2025, she transitioned to a role at MGH Dermatology Boston. Working in two different clinical settings has been an amazing experience and one she believes has strengthened her application to PA school.

She submitted her applications at the end of June and is currently in the waiting phase of the process. In the meantime, she has been traveling, enjoying her gap year, and staying dedicated to her daily workouts, which she says make her the best version of herself each day. Keara is always happy to talk with anyone who is navigating their own career path or wants to learn more about the PA profession or life in Boston.

How can I stay motivated when the path to my chosen career is so hard?

"It'll all work out. I have placed so much stress on myself all through undergrad, especially when I chose to switch from pre-med. It was February of my senior year and I had no PCE, but since graduating and meeting many other MAs who are on the same track, I realized that we all have our own track and timeline. I'm so young and there's no need to stress. Enjoy undergrad; it goes by too fast. If you're graduating, just apply to everything because you never know what job or school might come knocking at your door to want you."

- Keara Cronin, Pre-PA

"Don't let what you see online about what you need for your application stress you out. A lot of times those people have committed every second to something academic and to build their resume, or are flat out lying to try to make others feel bad. In my experience, admissions committees value a well-rounded application obviously, but also have started to put a lot more emphasis on us as individuals to determine how well we will fit into their culture and benefit the field of medicine."

- Jacob Schar, USCSOM M2

"Always make sure to give yourself grace! You are doing the best you can do and that's all you can hope for. One bad day, one bad class, or even one bad week does not define you or the type of physician you are going to become. Hold your head high and be proud of everything, including the little things!"

- Macie Coe, VCOM M2

What can I do now to prepare myself for grad school?

"GO SHADOW!! It may feel boring in the moment but being able to shadow different settings gives you an idea of what you may or may not like (outpatient, inpatient rehab, acute care, SNF, cash-based vs. insurance-based). Also 10000000% take biomechanics with Dr. Jay Patel if he is still teaching that course. It was so helpful during the first semester of PT school"

- Meagan Jacobin, PT, DPT

"Talk to your professors when you have a question or are curious about something! Don't spend too much time in the pre-health bubble - there will be plenty of time for that later. Do something you're interested in during your gap year :)"

- Jade Hannan, USF M1

"Make as many connections as you can and remember you are capable! Cast a wide net when you apply!"

- McLaren Heck, PA-S1

"Always follow your own personal passions and do what you actually find interesting! Don't just check off boxes or else you will end up somewhere you may not be fit for, so always stay true to yourself and it will definitely show through on interviews and applications!"

- Annalise Miller, MCG M2

"You get out of AED what you put into it!" - Witt Coleman, MUSC M2