

# Newsletter

June / July 2022

News updates from the Swedish American Chambers of Commerce of the Carolinas



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am writing this newsletter a few days after the Memorial Day weekend, remembering, and celebrating those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Sometimes we need to take time for reflection and gratitude. As we pass Q2 2022, I trust you are successfully navigating from virtual to hybrid to face to face interaction while remaining safe. We will continue to offer events and webinars that we hope will be of interest for you. At this time, I had hoped that we would have Covid behind us to schedule more in person meetings. Unfortunately, it appears that the new variants are on the rise. A big thank you to our trainees, working remotely, for their unselfish efforts during this period. The trainees are awesome.

Since the last Newsletter we have been inundated with news about new major investments in mainly our North Carolina state. After years of preparation Carolina has so far landed, Toyota (lithium battery plant), BOOM (supersonic airplanes) and VINFast (electric cars). All these companies have global organizations, and I am amazed that the Carolinas have been able to provide land and infrastructure to this development. Last year we also had Apple and Google that announced their investments in the Research triangle area, creating thousands of jobs over the next five to ten years. The bottom line is that we should be thankful to everyone that had the vision and strength to make this happen for a brighter future of the Carolinas.



However, it goes without saying that with this mega boom , with thousands of new residents pouring into the Triad area , we will face severe housing shortages. This will drive up housing prices, create supply issues and challenges finding additional employees. On top of that we have a high inflation rate (8.5% in April) and a fixed mortgage rate around 5.0%. Personally, I think these issues are the biggest challenges. We will follow this development and come back with more insights in our future Newsletters. At this time however, it looks like the Carolinas are unstoppable.

We are now approaching the summer period and we have not planned any major events or webinars but please watch out for any interesting new opportunities.

Our ambition in the fall is to plan for in person events that are related to the mega boom in the Carolinas.

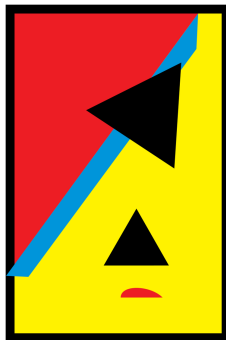
Best Regards,  
Riber Gustafson  
President of SACC Carolinas

## THE ALTEN SURVEY

Our intern Rosa had the opportunity to interview two Swedish interns who are currently interning at Alten in Greensboro, NC. The interns' supervisors were also interviewed. Questions were mainly about the interns' experiences, their adjustments to a new country and how their internship work has been.

The interns were very satisfied with their internships. They have both thrived and learned a lot during their time in the US. They both agree that their transition to the US went smoothly and they both think it has been a very valuable experience for their future.

The supervisors were very satisfied with their interns and they are very interested in future interns from international backgrounds!



**ALTEN**

## Advertising

Want to advertise your company or host an event through our platforms?

Do you want to learn more about our organization? Expand your network and have input on SACC Carolinas development?

If you are interested in promoting your venture to our members, we would gladly help you by using our platforms. It can be an ad, a sponsor spotlight in our newsletter, physical or digital event. If you are willing to sponsor an event or advertise, reach out to us and we will make it become reality.

## Member Involvement

Do you want to learn more about our organization? Expand your network and have input on SACC Carolinas development?

We encourage all our members to get involved in one of our committees:

- Event/Webinar
- Recruitment/Membership
- Marketing and Communications

[Click here to let us know your interest!](#)

## THANK YOU SOFIE AND ZACKARIAS!

We want to thank our spring interns Sofie and Zakarias for their work at SACC Carolinas. We have appreciated their excellent work and we wish them good luck for their future!

## GREETINGS TO OUR NEW INTERNS!



### ROSA DELGADILLO RYBERG

My name is Rosa and I am the new business development intern for SACC Carolinas this summer! I started my internship at the beginning of June. I just graduated with a bachelor in business and economics from Lund University. I applied to SACC Carolinas because I have always had a great interest in the US and I enjoy obtaining international work experience.

As the business development intern, I have had the opportunity of doing a diverse range of tasks, including writing our newsletter and holding interviews with other interns. I am looking forward to learning and growing my knowledge during the internship this summer!



## OSCAR BRUNZELL

My name is Oscar, and since the end of May, I have been working as a summer intern at SACC Georgia as well as at SACC Carolinas. I just finished my second year at Sciences Po Paris, majoring in Politics and Government, and will spend my next year at Emory University as an exchange student. I applied to SACC to further my interest in transatlantic relations. As a summer intern, I have mainly been occupied with preparing SACC newsletters, invitations, and materials for SACC events. I look forward to continuing to contribute to the work of SACC and meeting all the interesting people in the SACC community to ultimately develop both on a personal and professional level.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE FORUM

Here are a few selections and quotes from the presenters at the Executive Forum in June 2022.

- In the opening remarks by the Swedish Ambassador it was mentioned that we will expect a recession – so they recommended that we save for a rainy day.
- Life science is today Sweden's largest export sector.
- The largest Swedish company in the US is Securitas. (as a side note they said that the most secure alarm system is a dog, burglars do not like dogs and people)
- Related to Ukraine, the US and Europe are working on how to eliminate all fossil fuel (oil and gas) from Russia. Russia gets about 1BUSD per day from oil and gas and that is about the same amount as the war cost per day.
- 5G for America, the 5th generation is coming with faster communication and more data. It is interesting to note that companies still consider 5G to be in its inception.
- Another interesting observation is that the young generation ranks commodity as #2 after electricity - that is higher than water! Also, the attention spans the last period has gone from 20 sec to 9 sec.
- More than 50% of all Americans get their information from social media
- The Swedish steel company SSAB talked about their journey to fossil free material, they also mentioned that steel is the biggest recycle material as it is recycled over and over.
- A survey shows that 80% of all Americans say that it is up to the corporations to become sustainable. They also stressed that location is the key to lower energy cost. It was also very positive to hear that the US is back on environmental issues.

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## WELCOME NEW SWEDISH COMPANY

Polykemi Group, manufacturing high-quality customized plastic compounds, just announced the greatest single investment in the Group's history, opening up their first US plant in Gastonia, North Carolina. Now having production facilities on three continents, the deal marked an investment in the future! Read more about the deal and investment here:

<https://www.polykemi.com/news/polykemi-inc-opens-ownplant-in-gastonia-north-carolina/>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Yearly Crayfish Party!

Our yearly crayfish party will take place on the 10th of September. Save the date for this unforgettable event!



[Click to see all of our upcoming events](#)

**SACC Carolinas wishes you a great summer!**

**SACC Carolinas önskar dig en trevlig sommar!**

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