

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
THE FIRST 50 YEARS
1963-2013

USA

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

The First 50 Years

1963 - 2013



*This book is dedicated to all students, alumni, faculty, staff,
friends and supporters of the University of South Alabama —
past, present and future.*

*The University of South Alabama
and the USA Office of Public Relations are grateful to the
USA National Alumni Association; the USA Office of
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and the generous private donors who made possible the
publication of this book.*



On the cover: Dedicated during the University of South Alabama's 50th Anniversary, the Moulton Tower murals are an awe-inspiring representation of the heart, soul and mission of the University. For more, see Page 106.

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Some of the Many Who Have Made a Difference

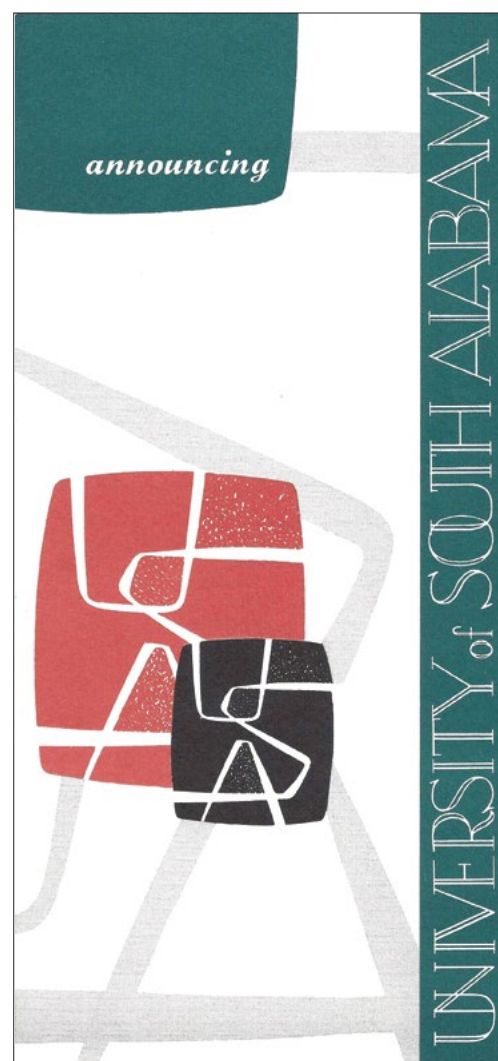
A University is Born and a Region is Transformed

The year was 1963, and a group of forward-thinking citizens from the Mobile and Baldwin County area realized that the world was changing. They shared a belief that the region could not thrive unless it improved higher education opportunities for all people. From this vision came the birth of the University of South Alabama.

Now celebrating 50 years of service, USA has become a vital educational and economic force for the Gulf Coast region and beyond. The University has forever transformed the region by providing a higher standard of education; better health care; a stronger economy; enhanced art, cultural and entertainment opportunities; and, above all, a greater quality of life for all citizens.

USA's incredible growth, to an enrollment of more than 15,000 students, resoundingly demonstrates the validity of that founding vision. USA's students today enjoy a modern, state-of-the-art campus that meets their academic and extracurricular needs. USA has awarded more than 75,000 degrees, with alumni taking their places in a wide range of professions, including education, health care, engineering and computing, the sciences, business and commerce, public service, the arts and humanities ... virtually every field and profession.

The quality of a USA education reflects the caliber of the University's faculty, who have achieved the nation's highest academic laurels. In addition to teaching, USA faculty enhance the region's quality of life through research, scholarly activity and outreach efforts. USA faculty develop cures for diseases that plague humanity and protect our important coastal environment. They help improve our K-12 schools, save lives through better weather prediction and enhance our region's energy resources. USA faculty support business and commerce, bring



A brochure announcing the opening of the University of South Alabama. Courtesy of the Mobile Public Library.



A 1965 aerial view showing the University's first two buildings and room for expansion. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

new products to market, and help us better understand and appreciate our art, history and culture. Faculty research brings some \$60 million into the community each year through competitive contracts, grants and other revenues. Partnerships among USA faculty, students and private high-technology firms are the basis for USA's Technology and Research Park, which contributes to economic and employment growth and currently houses 600 clean and sustainable private sector jobs.



USA has become a regional leader in health care.

One of the University of South Alabama's most important contributions has come through its hospitals, clinics and College of Medicine. In addition to educating the next generation of health care professionals, USA plays a unique role in the community as a major provider of high-quality health care made possible only through an academic health system. The same physicians and medical professionals who conduct research and train students also provide their expertise to meet the medical needs of patients in the region. The physicians and hospitals of the USA Health System provide advanced medical care to more than 250,000 people each year.

Unique services of the USA Health System include highly specialized care for at-risk expectant mothers and newborn babies at USA Children's & Women's Hospital. Each year, more than 2,800 babies come into the world at Children's & Women's, making it the area's leader in births. A major addition to the hospital is enabling it to expand its services to an even greater level.

Citizens needing the highest level of trauma care and burn treatment can get these services only at USA Medical Center, where doctors and staff save lives every day by providing advanced treatment to the region's most critically injured patients, as well as a host of other unique medical services.

In the most ambitious research effort in the University's history, the USA Mitchell Cancer Institute is discovering more effective ways of preventing and treating cancer, as well as providing cancer patients in the area with highly advanced treatment. More than 6,000 patients a year are now receiving state-of-the-art care at the Mitchell Cancer Institute, enabling them to live longer, healthier lives.



The quality of a USA education reflects the caliber of the University's faculty.

Through its teaching, research and health care contributions, the University of South Alabama is a vital economic engine for the Gulf Coast region and beyond. The alumni holding USA's 75,000 degrees make up a major component of the region's professional workforce and are vital to all sectors of the economy. USA's 15,000 students also have a significant economic impact, and the University directly employs more than 5,500 people — making it one of the largest employers along the upper Gulf Coast. Each year, the University's direct economic impact on the area totals well over \$2 billion.

In five decades, the University of South Alabama has truly transformed the quality of life in the Gulf Coast region. This has been possible only through the support of the citizens who championed the creation of the University a half-century ago and who, along with the University's alumni, have helped ensure the institution's success by providing their time, resources and support.

By providing a highly educated workforce, an improved economic climate, enhanced health care, research-based solutions to today's challenges, and enriched art, entertainment and cultural opportunities, the University of South Alabama continues to expand its positive impact on the Gulf Coast region and beyond.

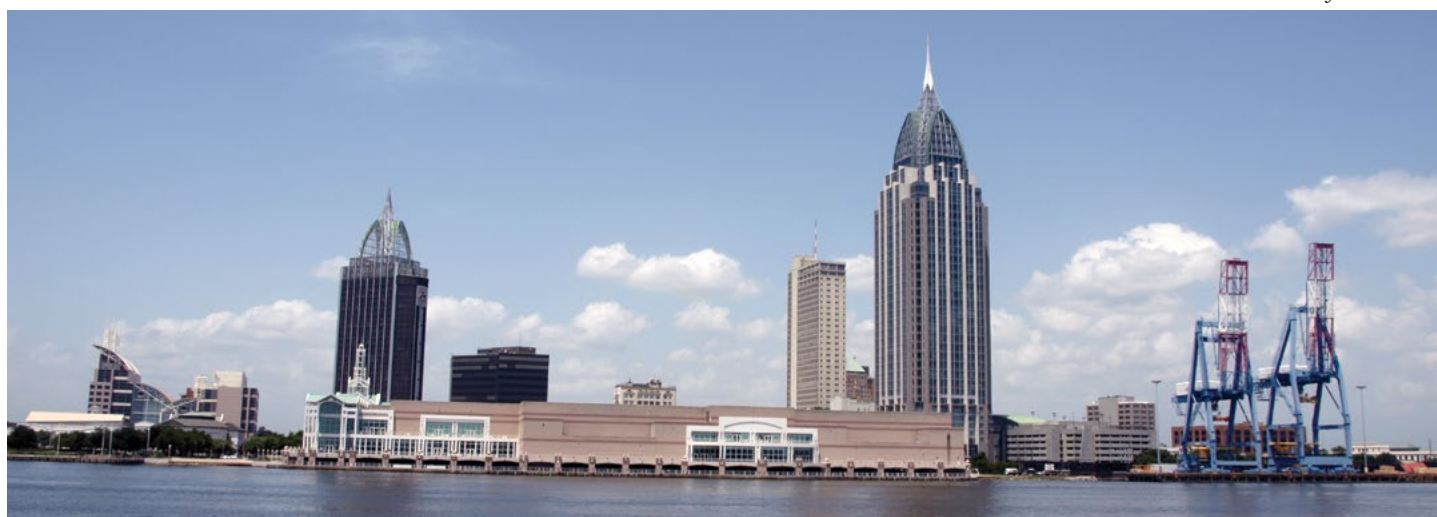
As it embarks on its second half-century of service, the University of South Alabama embraces its role as a vibrant, modern university. USA is prepared to meet the full range of human needs and to energetically address the challenges and opportunities of a complex and ever-changing world. The ultimate goal is a greater quality of life for all people served by the University of South Alabama.

This is USA's story.



At the 50-year mark, USA enrolled 15,000 students and had awarded more than 75,000 degrees.

USA has had a transformational impact on the Gulf Coast. Photo courtesy of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce.



I.

THE FIRST HALF-CENTURY

*The Story of the
University of South Alabama*



1960s



Dr. Fred Whiddon officially dedicates the University of South Alabama in October 1964. In the five decades that followed, USA would go from a one-building campus to a thriving university with unmatched impact in southwest Alabama. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

The first bold steps in the creation of the University of South Alabama were taken in the early 1960s, when the pressing need for a four-year public university in the state’s historic Port City became increasingly evident.

Mobile was, after all, the city where Alabama’s first public education system was formed at Barton Academy in 1852 and the state’s first medical college was established in 1859.

A century later, however, there was no four-year, state-supported institution of higher learning in the Mobile area — even the medical college had been moved out in 1920 — despite the city’s growing population, industrial base and crowded classrooms. Also, in 1960, city leaders were distressed by a glaring statistic: Barely 2 percent of the people in Mobile had the equivalent of a college degree, compared with 4 percent in Birmingham and 6 percent in Atlanta.

“In making our studies, we determined that Mobile as a city had the lowest percentage of college graduates of any major town in Alabama,” said Robert Edington, who as a Mobile legislator in the 1960s joined in the fight for change.

To receive a four-year degree from a public university of note in Alabama, residents in the Mobile area had to travel at least 200 miles to either Tuscaloosa or Auburn. For many in Mobile County and across the Gulf region, this was not financially possible. Mobile’s economic future was at stake as well. The city faced the possibility that its biggest single employer, Brookley Air Force Base, could

be closed. Having a university in place to generate a more diverse, skilled and homegrown workforce could ease the certain crisis of a Brookley closure.

It was a time when change was afoot nationally — in the civil rights of citizens, discoveries in the fields of science and medicine, and the entry of baby boomers into schools and colleges. Change would arrive in Mobile, too, in 1960, just as the city prepared to celebrate its 250th anniversary with its typical Old South, old-fashioned gentility.

In June of that year, a keen, energetic young college administrator, Dr. Frederick Palmer Whiddon, arrived as the new director of the University of Alabama Mobile Center. The two-year extension program of the Tuscaloosa campus had been operating in Mobile from a three-story masonry building on Royal Street, once the U.S. Customs House. Its site and limited academic program would soon be history, however.

Whiddon quickly joined with powerful allies in a common cause to create a four-year, degree-granting public university in Mobile.

Among them was Ernest Cleverdon, an executive vice president at Merchants National Bank and chairman of the Education Committee of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, the incubator of the foundation crucial to the project. University historian John Craig Stewart called Cleverdon “as near a thing as father to the University of South Alabama as one can find.”

The group later certified by legislative act as the Mobile County Foundation for Public Higher Education held its organizational meeting on Sept. 20, 1961, in the Bellingrath Room of chamber headquarters.

Notable figures with the foundation included three bank presidents — Finley McRae of Merchants National,

A schedule of classes for fall 1963 for the University of Alabama Mobile Center. Courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Austill Pharr of First National and George Denniston of American National — along with Glenn Brock, president of GM&O Railroad; Dr. M. Vaun Adams, who became president of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama; and Delchamps food stores President Alfred Delchamps Sr.



The University of Alabama offered classes from an extension center on Royal Street, at left, before business and civic leaders pushed for the creation of a local, four-year public university. Legislation creating the University of South Alabama was passed, and the new university operated offices from a building downtown on St. Louis Street, at right, before moving out to west Mobile. Photos courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Whiddon credited Delchamps, the new president of the Mobile chamber, and City Commissioner Joe Langan with providing key assistance. Langan, Whiddon said, was “very forward-looking and progressive. He saw the picture. He saw the possibilities.”

These possibilities included a vital teaching workforce — Mobile schools were hiring many new teachers each year — as well as engineers and graduates skilled in the sciences to attract new industries and expand those already in the commercial hub. Plus, Langan said, a medical college could be re-established in Mobile with the use of Mobile

giving no signs of agreeing to that plan. UA’s extension system director said the system couldn’t afford it.

Amid this uncertainty, foundation members held what were described as tense, table-pounding meetings before they were finally able to get county officials to join city commissioners in approving bond issues to produce \$1 million for the new institution’s first building.

The site of this university? A tract of 40 acres in west Mobile, across from Gaillard Drive, was leased to the foundation by the Mobile County school board — 99 years



Numerous civic and business leaders came together to push for the creation of the University of South Alabama. Seated from left, trustees Antoinette Watson and Ernest Cleverdon, and Dr. Fred Whiddon. Standing from left, trustees Mylan Engel, Ray Lolley, unknown behind Lolley, John Tyson Sr., Dr. William DeShazo, Dr. John “Mac” Bell Jr., Aubrey D. Green and L. W. Brannan Jr. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

General Hospital. The need for a public institution of higher learning in Mobile had never been greater.

In early 1962, Cleverdon and other foundation members scrambled to find the land and the funds to construct the first building of this new university. Already there was a need to move out of the Royal Street location: First National Bank had bought it with plans to tear it down and build a high-rise.

Foundation members had no initial qualms about making the new Mobile campus a degree-granting branch of the University of Alabama, much as had been done in Birmingham. But University of Alabama leaders were

at \$10 an acre — with an option to lease several hundred more acres at later dates. This was “16th Section” property, so called because, when Alabama became a state in 1819, the federal government deeded the 16th section of each township for the use of schools.

In Mobile County, much of that land was in west Mobile across from Municipal Park. There would be ample space for a new university to expand as it grew.

It was soon apparent it would not be a university tied to the Capstone at Tuscaloosa. University of Alabama President Dr. Frank Rose, at a meeting with foundation

City Asks U.S. For Immediate Release

Brookley Force Shrinking

The opening of the University of South Alabama came during a transitional time for Mobile, as the federal government moved to shut down Brookley Air Force Base. Courtesy of the Mobile Public Library.

members at the Sheraton Battle House on March 13, 1963, expressed doubt that there would be enough state funding or even enough undergraduates for a four-year degree program in Mobile.

Five days later, an irate foundation member, County Commissioner Leroy Stevens, said he had agreed to a \$500,000 county bond issue for a university only on the promise of a four-year degree program.

“All you’ve got is some more of those South Alabama promises!” he told foundation members at their meeting.

But Cleverdon, Langan and Whiddon were ready with an alternative — a wholly new university belonging solely to Mobile. Delchamps explained that Rose had made an honest attempt to decentralize education when he came to the University of Alabama in 1958 but, apparently, had been met with opposition, even to a degree program in Birmingham, making it difficult for him to promise one in the Port City. Whiddon also said Dr. John R. Morton,

dean of UA’s extension division, told him the University of Alabama would not stand in the way if Mobile wanted to proceed with a new institution.

But how to do it?

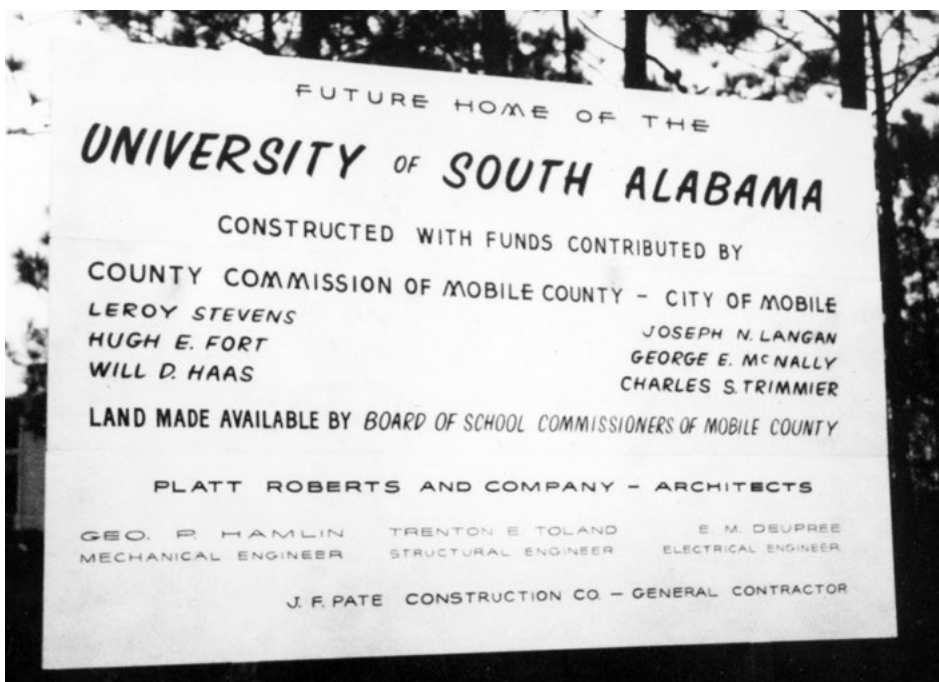
A new state university had not been created in Alabama in nearly 70 years, so there was no ready-at-hand template, and the Legislative Drafting Service in Montgomery said there was no possible way it could draw up a bill to establish the University of South Alabama. But Whiddon dug up material on how Alabama College at Montevallo was chartered in 1896, then had it rewritten to fit the new university in Mobile.

Key local legislators already were on board. State Rep. Mylan R. Engel would introduce the bill in the House, and state Sen. John Tyson Sr. would push it in the Senate.

In the spring of 1963, a new Alabama Legislature was in session, with a new governor, George C. Wallace, holding office barely two months after making “segregation forever” his inaugural rallying cry. The looming integration of the University of Alabama in June by two black students — one of them Vivian Malone of Mobile — was a far bigger political issue for him than a new four-

“The organizing and opening of a major institution of higher learning within only six months is unprecedented.”

— Austin R. Meadows, state superintendent of education



The University of South Alabama was constructed on undeveloped land controlled by the Mobile County school board, giving the University plenty of room to grow. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.



The first building on campus contained three floors and a basement and was used for both classrooms and offices. The building, renamed the Frederick Palmer Whiddon Administration Building in 1997, continues to be used today. Photos courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.



year university on the coast. Early on, Engel told foundation members the Wallace administration was backing the South Alabama bill — and Engel included in it \$1.2 million in state funds covering the University’s first two years.

“The legislative delegation from Mobile was really the impetus behind it,” recalled former Gov. Albert Brewer of Decatur, who was the state’s new House speaker in 1963. “Mylan was sort of the quarterback.”

In crafting the bill early on, there had been little discussion about what to call the new university. Cleverdon in one meeting had called it “Mobile University.”

But as Port City legislators sat around a Capitol office in Montgomery during a Wednesday afternoon committee session, Rep. Clara Stone Fields suggested it be called the University of South Alabama — USA for short.

“You know, ‘USA’ just has a good ring to it. University of South Alabama. I mean, how can you beat that?” she said.

“Bingo!” recalled Edington.

That name went into the legislation.

Despite the promise from UA’s dean, legislators aligned with Auburn and Alabama initially opposed the bill,

but south Alabama legislators were able to produce a compromise and the necessary votes for passage.

Time in the session was running out when Tyson guided the measure through the Senate for final passage. He and others from Mobile helped make it enough of a statewide political prize that even then-Lt. Gov. Jim Allen left the presiding officer’s chair and came down to the Senate floor to speak in support of the bill.

On May 3, 1963, the University of South Alabama was born. No longer would Mobile and the surrounding Gulf Coast area be one of the largest population centers in the entire country without a public, degree-granting university.

The first meeting of USA’s Board of Trustees, officially called by Wallace, was held in the historic Capitol building in Montgomery on Oct. 18, 1963. During this meeting,

*“You know, ‘USA’ just has a good ring to it. University of South Alabama.
I mean, how can you beat that?”*

— Clara Stone Fields, state representative

the 33-year-old Whiddon was named president of the University.

In a whirlwind period of months, Whiddon set up office in rented space at 154 St. Louis St. and began constructing a university from scratch. By April 1964, the University of Alabama’s old extension center closed. That same month, the new USA staff moved into the University of South Alabama’s modern, \$1 million building — three floors and a basement — at its suburban west Mobile site.

Six of the UA center’s eight faculty members joined the initial staff at USA. They included history professor Dr. Howard Mahan, the first full-time faculty appointee of the new University, who later would become chairman of the department of history and have a student achievement award named in his honor. Also among the selections were Dr. J. Howe Hadley, who would head the department of

education, and English professor John Craig Stewart, who had served as interim director of UA’s extension center after Whiddon left it. In 1977, Stewart would publish *The University of South Alabama: The First Thirteen Years*.

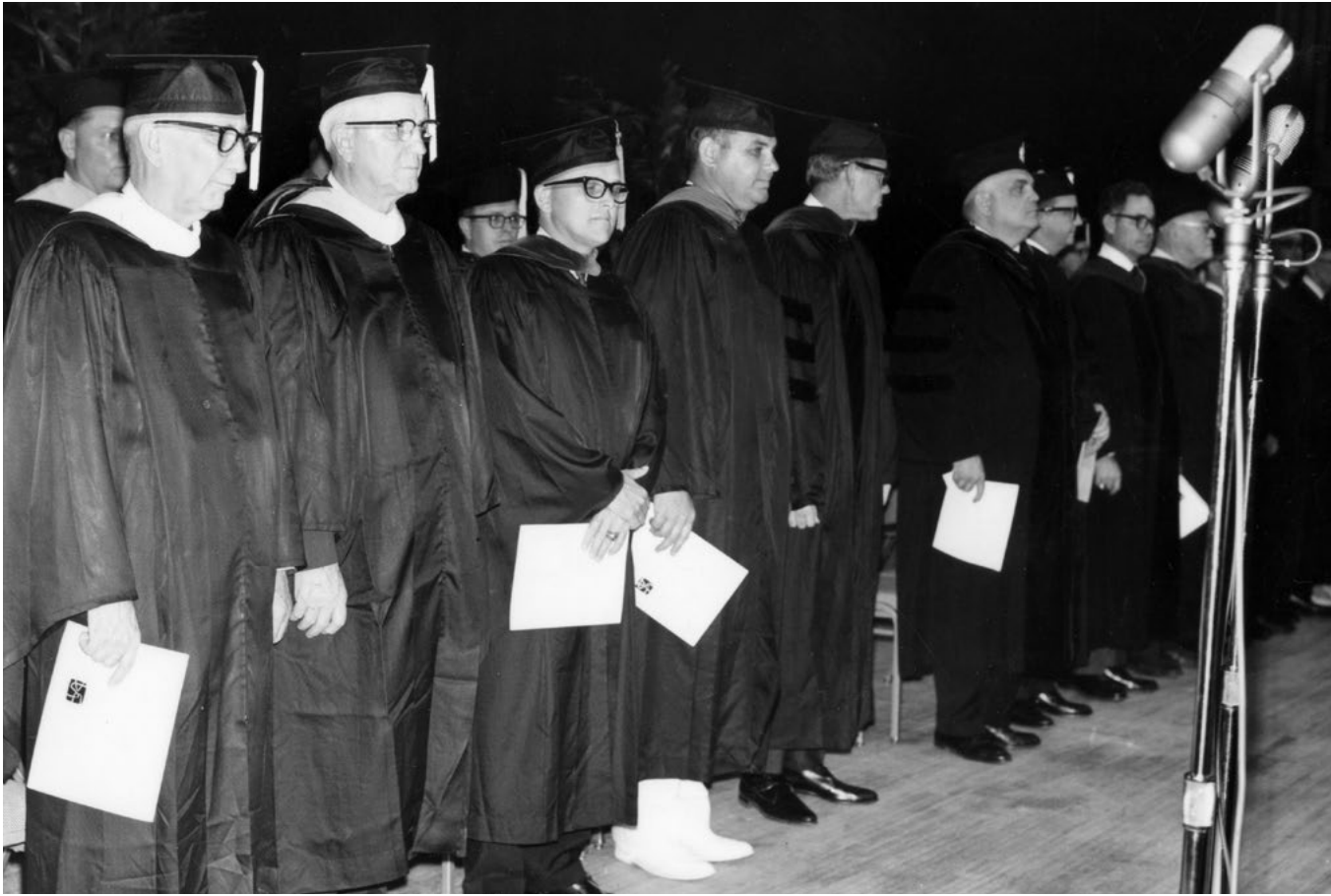
The first year alone was remarkable.

The 27-member faculty that would be the foundation of the University’s drive for academic standing was formed in the first six months, and four colleges — Arts and Sciences, Business, Education and Engineering — were envisioned to meet the top-priority needs of students and community.

“The organizing and opening of a major institution of higher learning within only six months is unprecedented in the field of higher education,” state Superintendent of Education Austin R. Meadows said at USA’s June 1964 opening.



A library was one of the first buildings constructed on campus. In 2003, the University completed a \$9.4 million renovation and expansion of the original 1968 structure. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.



Members of the University's first Board of Trustees participate in the inaugural commencement, held on June 11, 1967. Eighty-eight diplomas were awarded to graduates during the ceremony at the Mobile Municipal Theater downtown. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

That month, the University welcomed 276 students. By September, enrollment would leap to 928, some 300 more than anticipated, and it would nearly double to 1,806 in the next 12 months.

As enrollment continued to soar, one rule became fixed in the administrative and faculty plan: No lowering of academic standards to allow transfer students with D grades to be admitted. Despite pressure, the standards held. The needs in the community might be great, but the reputation of the region's first state-funded public university was essential.

The formal dedication of the University of South Alabama took place on Oct. 18, 1964. The very next month, the critical role of the new university in the community suddenly grew even greater. As had been feared by some, the Department of Defense announced it would close Brookley Air Force Base, eliminating 16,000 jobs held by civilian employees, or 10 percent of Mobile's civilian workforce.

The base had a total payroll of \$95 million. Losing that would create an enormous economic crisis for Mobile and the Gulf region. But within two months, Whiddon and

USA trustees set in motion plans to secure 327 acres of Brookley Field, joining with city leaders in a campaign to replace the military base with new industrial jobs and new potential.

As the city succeeded in landing manufacturing plants for the old air base, the University acquired the acreage for its Brookley campus, a signal to new industry that a well-trained local workforce was part of the deal. The USA property included a large tract of housing and recreational sites — a swimming pool, golf course and bowling alley — along with facilities for a bookstore and cafeteria services.

It was an investment in USA's future as well as the region's. Soon it would be a focal point for conferences and special programs designed to educate those of all ages.

The USA dedication had taken place in the central arcade in front of the University's lone building. A year later, that was still the only building on the campus, but an ambitious drive already was under way to change that for good.

Soon on the USA horizon: dorms, subdivision housing for married students, a library, a cafeteria and a bookstore, instructional labs, a gym, one building for health and

*A year after USA was dedicated, the new university still had only one building.
But an ambitious drive was under way.*

physical education, another for engineering and others for faculty offices, life sciences, business and management studies. Plans for these facilities were laid as early as 1965 — many of them from the increasingly crowded offices of that lone first building — and signaled in its first decade the University's long-term vision for academic outreach and commitment to enhanced student life.

In 1965, a groundbreaking was held for the Alpha dorms, the University's first student housing complex, with rooms for several hundred men and women. Until the dorms opened two years later, basically the entire student body commuted to classes from local residences, a third or more to take classes part time.

But students were integral to shaping the campus profile. In 1965, at the request of the student body, USA trustees approved the jaguar as the University mascot. The board initially also approved black and gold as University colors, but in June 1967 changed them to red, white and blue as

student sentiments shifted and 83 percent voted to link USA to the colors of the national flag.

There was also a desire to show those colors in athletic competitions.

Whiddon felt sports were essential to university life, and Dr. Mel Lucas was hired as USA's first athletics director in 1965. He doubled as USA's first baseball coach, a post he held during 1965-1968.

Trustees also approved a first-rate basketball program, led by recruits on scholarships, with the inaugural Jaguar men's team hitting the floor for the 1968-69 season.

Amid the almost constant rumble of construction equipment, 88 students took the classes and passed the coursework to become the first to receive a degree from a public institution of higher education in Mobile. Those baccalaureate degrees were handed out in June 1967 at USA's first commencement.



Dr. Fred Whiddon, center, and Dr. James Caldwell, vice president for development, at right, look over construction for a new building. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.



In May 1968, the first six master’s degrees were conferred, putting the University on its path toward an expanded postgraduate curriculum.

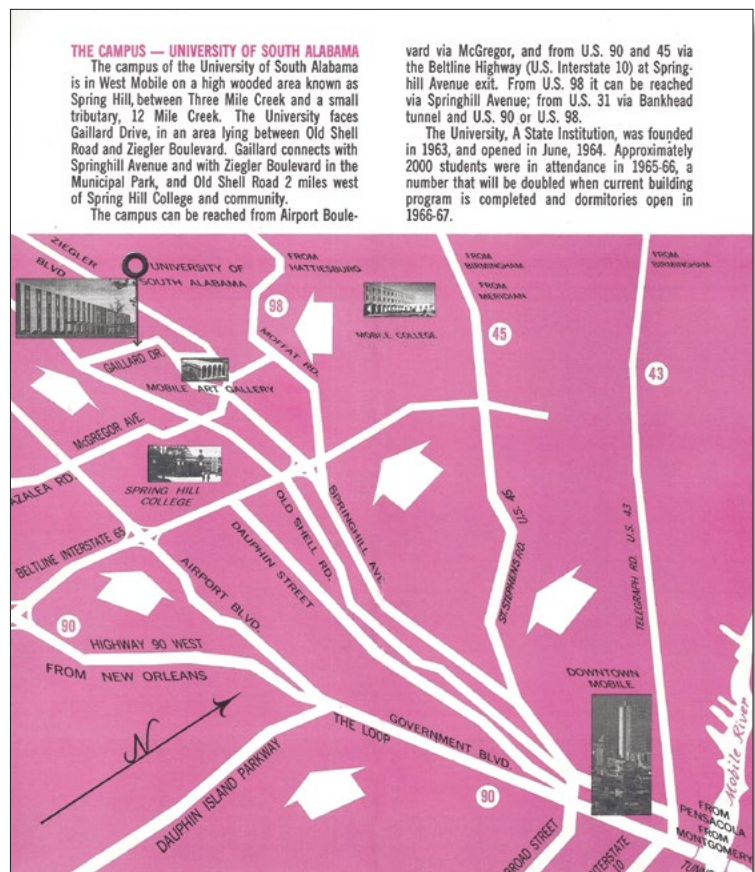
As USA began to recast its mission with campus development, its first decade included the formal establishment of three of the colleges — Arts and Sciences in 1964, and both Business and Education in 1967 — along with aggressive steps to win accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

To that end, the administration shrewdly stocked USA’s first library with 120,000 precisely chosen volumes. And Whiddon stressed the hiring of department heads and professors with doctoral degrees.

“He said the most important class in a college is the freshman class. That’s where you’re going to make or break. Freshmen need Ph.D.s that really know their business and are going to get them off to a good start,” Edington recalled.

In December 1968, SACS granted accreditation and admitted USA into its membership.

With new buildings rising on winding campus roads and accreditation in hand, the University of South Alabama looked forward to a new decade with plans to bring an old dream to life: re-establishing a medical school in Mobile.



The University of South Alabama experienced quick and steady growth during its first couple of decades. At top, the campus as seen from the air in 1967. A classroom building and dormitories are north of the administration building. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library. Above, a brochure gives directions to the new university. Courtesy of the Mobile Public Library.

1970s



The 1970s were marked by the birth and rapid growth of USA's medical and health programs. In just a few years, the College of Medicine was founded and its academic building constructed, above, and USA took over the operations of Mobile General Hospital for training health care professionals and treating the area's sick. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Adding a medical school to the University of South Alabama's operations had been in the blueprint from the start, but getting the University on its feet was a necessary first task.

With that under way, the Mobile County Foundation for Public Higher Education began the legwork for the medical school.

Since the University of Alabama was already operating a medical school in Birmingham, initial questions arose about oversight — would USA run the program? — and even the extent of the need for a second medical school in the state.

A national consulting firm was brought in to do an analysis. Its finding: There was, indeed, a critical need for additional medical personnel in Alabama.

With strong support from Mobile leaders, as the city and county again joined the foundation to provide

key financing, the Port City was designated as the logical location for a second medical school. Then-Gov. Albert Brewer also was an important voice backing the establishment and financing of a Mobile medical school under the direction of the University of South Alabama.

The effort was fast moving out of the gate.

A legislative resolution in 1969 gave USA the green light to establish a medical school, but the fight over funding its operations pitted the young university against more entrenched backers of UAB. Creating the new university in Mobile “was a lot easier than to extract the necessary monies to create a medical school,” recalled Sonny Callahan of Mobile, elected to the Alabama House in 1970.



Gov. Albert Brewer, left, talks with Dr. Fred Whiddon. Brewer was an early proponent of a medical school at USA. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

After Whiddon announced plans for the construction of three buildings to educate doctors, nurses and other medical staff, the Legislature in May 1971 approved a \$10 million bond issue for the College of Medicine in Mobile.

“The most powerful man in each chamber is pushing this with fervor,” said William L. Roberts of Mobile, a House member at the time.

USA’s Board of Trustees, in December 1971, passed a resolution thanking the Legislature for creating a medical college in the heavily populated Mobile region. “The needs of the people of Alabama for more doctors and better medical care have been and are pressing; you ... have taken the first momentous step in answer to those needs,” the USA trustees said.

While there was opposition in the Legislature, as there had been in 1963 when the University was chartered, the political punch of the Mobile area had strengthened with the 1970 election. “The stars were all aligned,” as Callahan put it.

After the 1970 vote, the speaker of the House was Sage Lyons of Mobile, and the Senate president pro tem was Pierre Pelham, who represented the county and was an influential voice in support of a Mobile medical school. Pelham also was a floor leader for George Wallace, newly returned to the governor’s chair, and a native of rural Washington County.

“He was acutely aware of the need for family physicians in small towns,” said Edington.

Mobile General Hospital, which opened in 1830 and cared for patients at the original site for 136 years, would be a crucial factor in creating the medical college. Mobile General finally moved into a new, 11-story hospital building in 1966, and the building was deeded to the University of South Alabama in 1970 for \$10. It became the University of South Alabama Medical Center.

Along with caring for patients, the new hospital would serve as a teaching facility for the new medical school. The original Medical College of Alabama had been moved to Tuscaloosa in 1920 and to Birmingham in 1945. Now the new University of South Alabama College of Medicine was finally taking its place in Mobile.

“The needs of the people of Alabama for more doctors and better medical care have been and are pressing.”

— USA Board of Trustees resolution



Whiddon helped burnish the reputation of the young medical school through the advice of medical luminaries, including Dr. Arthur Richardson, Dr. Alton Ochsner and Dr. Michael DeBakey. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
CLASS OF 1976 – CHARTER CLASS**



R.M. Cohen



W.E. Dumas



J.F. Gamer, II



G.W. Hall



C.E. Herlihy, Jr.



C.M. Hermann



D.T. Hood



P.M. Kilgo



G.D. Lacy



R.A. Levin



G.D. Lorino



D.T. Meadows, Jr.



P.L. Murphy



A.J. Newman, Jr.



H.E. Scott, III



F.W. Strickland, Jr.



M.W. Strider



G.W. Veale



J.M. Warren, Jr.



T.J. Wool



Robert M. Bucher, M.D.



Clyde G. Huggins, Ph.D.

Photos of members of the charter class of USA's College of Medicine are on display in the lobby of the college, and are joined by each class that followed.

Dr. Robert M. Bucher was appointed dean of the College of Medicine in 1971 with the daunting challenge to recruit basic science and clinical faculty members to a school with no record to measure it by — and to do it rapidly. Demonstrating his success, the charter class of 25 students began its studies in January 1973, more than a year ahead of expectations. And by the time 20 from that class were the first to graduate in June 1976, the College of Medicine had received accreditation.

On the teaching side, the University of South Alabama's commitment to health care was enhanced with the construction and then expansion of the Medical Sciences Building, the creation of the College of Nursing in 1973 and the College of Allied Health Professions in 1975, and the initiation of its first Ph.D. program, in basic medical sciences, in 1978.

Dr. Pat Covey, trained in neurophysiology, arrived at USA in 1975 as an assistant professor and chairwoman



At the grand opening for the USA Medical Sciences Building, SGA President John Tyson Jr., right, shakes the hand of Gov. George Wallace as Dr. Fred Whiddon looks on. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

The growth of the residency program was remarkable. At first there were fewer than 20 full-time residents in the USA Medical Center. Over the next 10 years that number grew to 137.

That first decade also saw students coming to the new medical school in Mobile from more than 100 institutions across the country, many of them among the most highly regarded, such as Johns Hopkins, West Point, Emory, Notre Dame and Vanderbilt.

With USA Medical Center the primary teaching facility for the college, the hospital's role would greatly expand even in the first decade, including the opening of research and psychiatric facilities, a children's clinic and allied health trailers.

of clinical laboratory sciences. She was intending to teach and do research, but the medical school was still new. There were more pressing needs.

The first was to create a health sciences program. That meant developing the curriculum, building a faculty and justifying new programs and costs.

"They had to be funded, and they had to be done in accordance with the highest standards and nationally set standardized criteria to be accredited," said Covey, who went on to serve as the dean of the College of Allied Health Professions and later senior vice president for academic affairs.

The demands were great, both from students seeking to be admitted to highly competitive programs with limited

space, such as physical therapy, and from employers seeking USA's highly skilled health sciences graduates.

It was a time of expansion and achievement on many fronts. Student residence space more than doubled with the completion of the Gamma apartment and Beta residence hall complexes. A new humanities building and engineering classrooms and labs provided teaching and research space for new undergraduate and graduate programs. The College of Engineering was formally established in 1976.

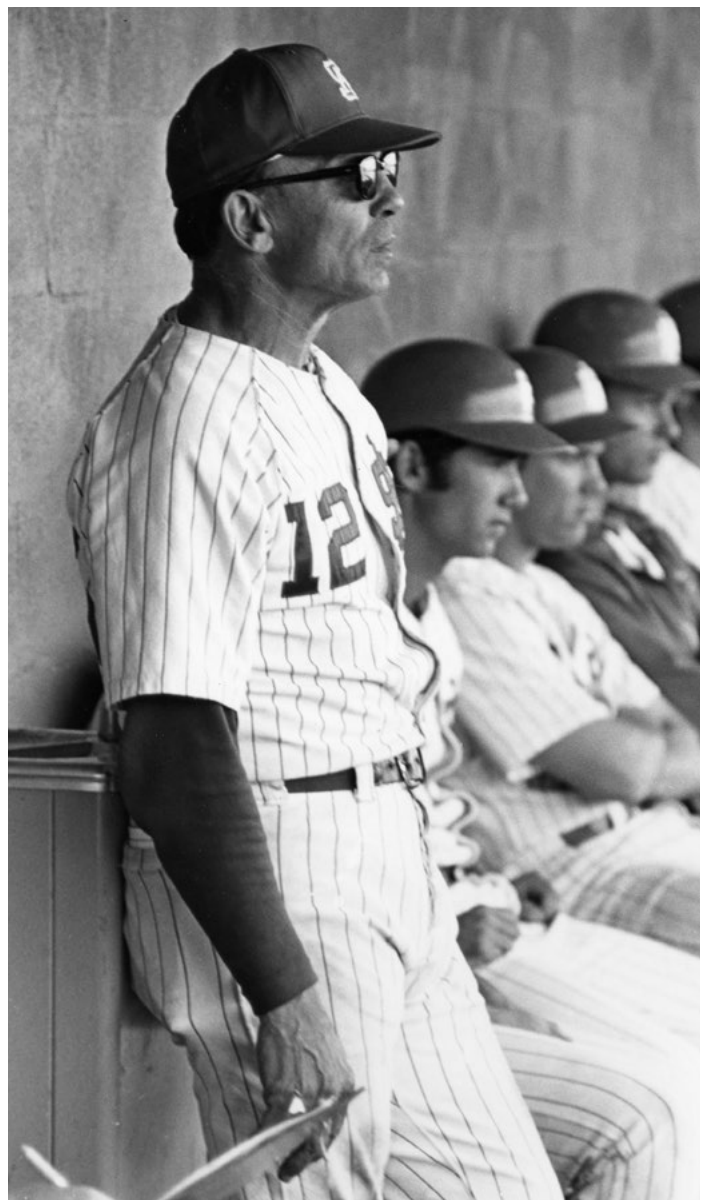
It was a time of innovation as well: The first school of banking in Alabama opened at USA in the summer of 1976. The three-year statewide school was sponsored by the University in conjunction with the Alabama Bankers Association.

USA also had begun to play a major role in the startup of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab and its marine environmental science projects.

Whiddon had long sought to give biology students hands-on experience in such projects on the Alabama coast. When the Air Force left a radar station and acres of property and buildings on the eastern end of Dauphin Island, it opened up possibilities that Whiddon and USA helped bring to fruition. The University hired Dr. Bob Shipp and other young faculty members with marine biology interests, giving momentum to legislative action in 1971 to create the Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium, initially made up of USA and 16 other Alabama institutions.

Students from South Alabama and participating schools took course work and did field work at the island facility, newly named the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. They conducted research by boat in Gulf and bay waters and marshy coastal estuaries. Seeking to maintain a healthy coastal ecosystem, the students, faculty and sea lab staff became an essential resource for those in the Gulf region whose lives and livelihoods depended on the protection of area waters and marine life.

The University, which opened as a desegregated institution, saw Ken Simon become the first African-American elected president of the Student Government Association in 1975 — one year before the University of



Eddie Stanky lent his persistent attitude and major league experience to the Jaguar baseball program. His arrival was a clear sign that USA would compete in athletics. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Alabama elected its first black SGA president and 12 years before Auburn. Along with his victory in student voting, Simon became a student representative on the USA Board of Trustees in 1976. His official appointment to the board was made in a letter by former segregationist Gov. George C. Wallace. It's a letter Simon would keep. A Birmingham attorney, he now is a USA trustee.

The 1970s saw USA beginning to play a major role in the startup of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab and its marine environmental science projects. These programs have garnered the University national recognition through the years.



The University showed its commitment to the community by saving several historic structures and relocating them to campus. The Toulmin House, above left, was relocated to campus and renovated to its former glory as the Alumni Hall. Photos courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

By the 1970s, Mel Lucas had turned over baseball coaching duties and led the University's push for a dynamic athletic program that could compete with top-division teams in major college sports. The pick to be USA's second baseball coach: former major league player and manager Eddie Stanky, who had played in the World Series with three different teams.

His selection gave big-league credibility to the Jaguar program. Stanky, nicknamed "The Brat" for his scrappy play in the majors, was a Brooklyn Dodger who defended new teammate Jackie Robinson against racist fans when Robinson broke the color line in the majors in 1947. Leo Durocher, Stanky's manager with the Dodgers and New York Giants, famously described him as "no nice guy ... all the little S.O.B. can do is win."

And win he did at South Alabama, taking five teams to the NCAA tournament and compiling a 488-195-2 record over 14 seasons that began in 1969. A decade later, the

USA baseball stadium, with a seating capacity of 4,500, was named in his honor.

The USA president was against naming University sites for people and felt the baseball stadium should not be Stanky Field. But this was one case in which Whiddon would not prevail with the Mobile legislative delegation. They got it named by legislative act.

The hugely popular coach thus became a draw for the baseball team even after he retired.

In basketball, South Alabama joined the Sun Belt Conference as a charter member when the league was launched in 1976. Two years later, the Jaguars finished first in the conference for three straight seasons and made the NCAA tournament twice.

The new university's outreach into the community extended to Mobile's historical structures and cultural activities.



Seaman's Bethel in downtown Mobile, above left, was moved to campus and renovated in the 1970s. Today, the building is used for the development office. Photos courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.



Hurricane Frederic in 1979 hit Mobile and caused widespread devastation. The USA campus was not spared, as Frederic knocked down hundreds of trees and caused more than \$13 million in damage. Photos courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Three 19th-century structures — the 1860 Seaman’s Bethel church, the 1870 Mobile Townhouse and the 1828 Toulmin Home, a Creole cottage in Toulminville — were saved by the University and moved to the campus. Initially a museum-like complex serving artistic and University purposes, the three now form a serene gallery where current honors, development and alumni relations programs operate.

The University also saved the historic Saenger Theatre on the eve of its demolition in June 1971. After extensive repairs and restoration work, the 1,900-seat theater was turned into The University of South Alabama Theatre for the Performing Arts. The move gave the University a well-known site for concerts, shows and educational programs.

The decade would close with an event long remembered by students and staff members present at the time — the powerful Hurricane Frederic. The storm that rolled in



during the night of Sept. 12, 1979, pounded Alabama’s beachfront and battered Mobile, the first major hurricane to strike the Port City since 1926.

The University of South Alabama was not spared. Damages to its growing campus cost \$13 million to repair. By the end of the next decade, USA’s Coastal Weather Research Center, developed by Dr. Aaron “Bill” Williams, would be providing weather forecasts and warnings for Mobile and coastal Alabama.

1980s



USA mascot SouthPaw got into the festivities during the University's celebration of its 25th anniversary in 1988. To the right of SouthPaw, Alabama first lady Helen Hunt and Gov. Guy Hunt join Dr. Fred Whiddon on stage. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

The 1980s took the still-young institution to its quarter-century point, with the explosive growth of the academic and health care programs showing the extent that the University was a vital force in the region.

There were more than 60 structures on the main campus. New fields of scholarship were opening in the various colleges, with graduates taking new skills to the Mobile marketplace. These included computer skills: USA's School of Computer and Information Services opened in 1982 in response to rapid changes in the technology in offices and classrooms.

The computer also began playing an increased role in that traditional venue for student study — the library. USA's main library now held more than a quarter-million books and 2,500 periodicals, along with microfilm, government documents and audiovisual materials and equipment. With the advent of new technology, the

computer began providing catalog information and an online retrieval system.

Online access also connected USA's Biomedical Library to a computerized service of the National Library of Medicine. This allowed students in the medical school and allied health and nursing to rapidly access biomedical articles from major sources around the globe.

The University library also enjoyed a unique asset, a photographic archive that indelibly connected USA to the Mobile community. The collection of more than 90,000 negatives, acquired largely from the Mobile Public Library, covered the period from 1870 to 1963 in and around Mobile.

Outside their classrooms, students enjoyed a growing number of options for sports and recreation around campus, including tennis courts, track, soccer, intramural fields and an NCAA-standard-size swimming pool.

In Division I sports, the Eddie Stanky era ended with the 1983 season, but he went out a winner as the Jags won the Sun Belt Conference championship and made the NCAA regionals. His successor, former USA player Steve Kittrell, kept the winning tradition going and, for the decade, the Jags won five conference titles and made NCAA postseason play five times.

USA's role in the health care of the Gulf Coast region expanded again in the 1980s, largely through the opening of new sites for medical studies and health services. This included the establishment of the University's Springhill Avenue Campus and the completion of the first building in the main campus medical complex.

On Spring Hill Avenue, the University's acquisition of two hospital buildings — Providence and Doctors — increased its critical role in treating the medical needs of the Mobile and Gulf Coast community. Doctors Hospital became the home of USA's Children's & Women's



As campus enrollment grew, students became increasingly connected to the University and its activities. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

The men's basketball team closed the decade with its most memorable victory — an 86-84 win over Alabama in the 1989 NCAA tournament, the first meeting between the two schools. The Port City was galvanized by the game, which amounted to a hoops version of the Iron Bowl in Mobile.

Potential students in the region and elsewhere were taking notice of USA. The new institution that welcomed 928 students in the fall of 1964 had an enrollment of 8,000 in 1980 and closed the decade with more than 11,000.

Hospital, one of only five of its kind in the nation. The Providence Hospital building housed clinical activity and academic programs to meet the needs of upper-division allied health and nursing students.

In a medical complex on the main campus, a clinical services building opened, followed by a student infirmary and health services building. They were soon followed by a forensic services building that was designed to serve the Department of Pathology and the state's forensic sciences system.

“I think we did come of age politically. If nothing else, members of the Legislature found out who the University of South Alabama was.”

— William J. “Happy” Fulford, USA governmental affairs director

Along with opening a health-care-oriented campus on Spring Hill Avenue, the University in 1984 established a branch in Baldwin County, which was becoming one of Alabama’s fastest-growing locales. This branch, part of USA’s mission to reach out to all areas of the region, provided a door to a four-year degree to residents of Mobile County’s across-the-bay neighbors, as well as those nearby in the Florida Panhandle.

The decade also marked the University of South Alabama’s coming of age politically.

It occurred in response to a stealth attack by the Alabama political icon who earlier had given crucial support for the creation of the University and its health care system — Gov. George Wallace.

This time, after returning to the governor’s office for his fourth and final term in January 1983, Wallace pulled out a surprise that was a shock to the University. He announced that the state would reclaim the potentially rich oil and gas bottomlands of Mobile Bay that the University had received as an endowment in 1974.

The 7,000 acres was known as Grant’s Pass, part of a tract in Mobile Bay deeded by the Alabama Legislature in 1839 to John Grant, who dug a ship channel connecting the bay with the Mississippi Sound. The property changed hands over the years, but after becoming part of the University of South Alabama’s holdings, it gained wide notice with the discovery of oil and gas from the bay tidelands.

Wallace, in search of new revenue amid the pains of a recession, ordered USA trustees to deed the property to the state. Most of the trustees were Wallace appointees, and some observers expected them to quickly capitulate.

It was quickly apparent they would not.

William J. “Happy” Fulford, who was at the start of his long career as USA’s governmental affairs director, said the Wallace camp may have misread the trustees’ allegiances.

“When President Whiddon said, ‘We’re going to fight this,’ their loyalty remained with the University,” said Fulford.



The University’s health sciences programs continued to evolve in the 1980s with the establishment of USA’s Springhill Avenue Campus. The campus was home to the rapidly expanding colleges of Nursing and Allied Health Professions, along with primary health care clinics and other programs. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.



Dr. Fred Whiddon worked tirelessly to grow USA's influence, often shuttling to Montgomery and Washington to bring the University's needs to legislative leaders. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Wallace was forced to call a special session of the Legislature, a move giving the governor a stronger position to pass a bill to reclaim the land. But in doing so, he set off a huge surge of support by Mobilians for their University — and gave local legislators a strong new sense of unity and clout.

As busloads of Mobile citizens arrived at the Capitol to protest, the Mobile-Baldwin delegation staged hours-long filibusters to block votes on the Wallace bill.

“I remember them taking a wheelbarrow full of documents to the well of the House to read from the Alabama Code, or anything that was germane to Grant’s Pass or to legislation,” Fulford said. “The wheelbarrow was for symbolism, and they sustained the filibuster for a long, long time.”

Whiddon and Fulford were joined by University Dean Gordon Moulton and USA attorney Maxey Roberts in a scramble to produce documents for the legislators to read. Holed up in a Montgomery motel room with a manual typewriter, they would type amendments for the legislators to discuss for an hour at a time.

The Wallace bill eventually did pass, but USA again refused to surrender and took the Grant’s Pass matter to court. Through negotiations with the Wallace team, a

compromise was reached in 1985 that gave the University 28.5 percent of Grant’s Pass revenues. It also gave the institution and Mobile-area lawmakers a newfound sense of political standing.

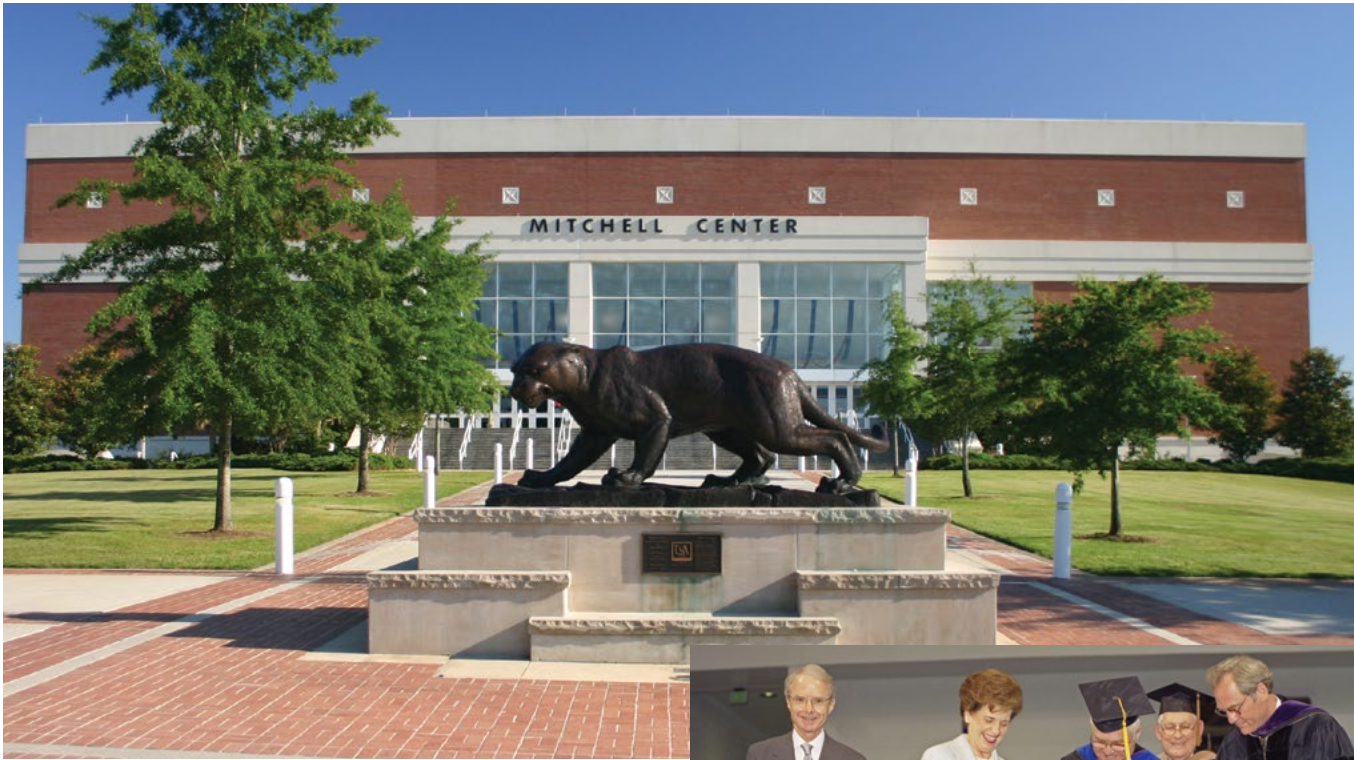
“I think we did come of age politically,” said Fulford. “If nothing else, members of the Legislature found out who the University of South Alabama was. They found out that it wasn’t a small regional college in our Port City. They found out it was on the way to being a major university.”

It was an exhilarating experience for the House and Senate members from Mobile and Baldwin counties. Some, like Mobile state Reps. James Buskey, a Democrat, and Victor Gaston, a Republican, are still in the Legislature.

“They all still cherish that period in their careers,” Fulford said. “It brought that group together — Republicans, Democrats, whites, blacks — working toward *their* University.”

For their efforts, the University presented all of them with plaques, replete with a vintage cannon and cannon balls, recognizing them as “Honorary Admirals in the Grant’s Pass Navy.” Some plaques still hang proudly on walls.

1990s



The 1990s saw the University’s dynamic inaugural era under President Fred Whiddon draw to a close.

Viewed as a politically skilled builder, both pragmatist and visionary, Whiddon had been a driving force behind the creation of the University, its expansion and regional impact over the first three decades.

A student of philosophy with an undergraduate degree from Birmingham-Southern College and a Ph.D. from Emory University, Whiddon stressed academic excellence as new programs opened and the necessity of doctoral degrees as key new faculty members were hired.

The physical growth of the campus had begun, in 1964, with the first building that put all facets of the new institution under its single roof. That building, surrounded by pine trees on a slight hill overlooking what would become University Boulevard, would be the first that Whiddon entered as a young president.



The 1990s saw the birth of the Mitchell Center, named after the Mitchell family, who donated to the building’s construction. Above, from left, Abraham Mitchell, Arlene Mitchell, Mayer Mitchell, President Gordon Moulton and Gov. Don Siegelman participate in the ribbon-cutting.

It would remain a primary site for his strategic planning and a centerpiece of the west Mobile campus as USA grew during his tenure.

In October 1997, a year before his retirement, the building was renamed and dedicated as the Frederick Palmer Whiddon Administration Building in honor of his 34 years of service.

USA was entering a new era. In July 1998, V. Gordon Moulton was chosen to lead the University as its second president in 35 years.

USA was entering a new era. Among the new administration's goals was to raise the profile of philanthropy and the role of alumni in building an even more vibrant university community.

The new president soon began to put in place an ambitious new course and vision for the University. Moulton, who arrived at USA as a business faculty member in 1966, had served as professor, dean of the School of Computer and Information Sciences and vice president for services and planning. As president, he had the depth of experience to set out a range of initiatives to enhance academic and student life; expand and improve health care, research and educational opportunities; and strengthen the University's long-term place as a regional economic engine.

A native of Donalsonville, Ga., Moulton earned his B.S. in industrial management from Georgia Tech and his MBA from Emory, giving him the expertise and insights of both an engineer and a businessman as he laid out plans for USA's campus and academic future, as well as how to secure it financially. Among his goals was to raise the profile of philanthropy and the role of alumni in building an even more vibrant university community.

The completion of the John W. Laidlaw Performing Arts Center in October 1998 gave the campus a 52,000-square-

foot space for the department of dramatic arts and the department of music. With two performing spaces and a 300-seat recital hall among its features, the Laidlaw center put one of Mobile's most popular performing arts venues on the campus near a main entrance.

It was another example of the University's embrace of the arts world in Mobile. Just a few years earlier, the Visual Arts Building opened with classrooms and studios for painting, sculpture, photography, graphic design and ceramics in the department of art and art history.

The late John W. Laidlaw, a leader in the construction business, had donated \$1 million for the performing arts building and is supporting it financially annually from a foundation. With the Laidlaw center's opening, the University passed the Saenger Theatre over for the city to use as a continued draw in downtown redevelopment.

The 1990s also saw the College of Education relocate to University Commons, a 127,000-square-foot building across Old Shell Road. The additional space allowed the college to grow and provide a learning environment for



The John W. Laidlaw Performing Arts Center, which opened in 1998, gives the departments of music and dramatic arts concert and stage space to showcase the talents of students and faculty to the community.



USA Children's & Women's Hospital moved into Doctors Hospital after the University acquired the building in 1990. The Midtown location offered proximity to USA Medical Center while giving USA Children's & Women's Hospital room to grow. Photo at right courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

more than 1,300 undergraduate students and 450 graduate students, making it one of the largest colleges on campus.

In 1999, the University recognized the Mitchell family of Mobile, whose philanthropic gifts to USA, totaling more than \$43 million, are the largest given to any public university in Alabama.

In May, the university named its business school the Mitchell College of Business, and in October dedicated the Mitchell Center, which includes a 10,000-seat sports and performance arena, athletics offices and the Coastal Weather Research Center, among many features. The Mitchell Center's architecture also set the style for later buildings and campus entrance portals.

Natives of Mobile, brothers Abraham and Mayer Mitchell did not attend USA but founded the Mitchell Company in their hometown in 1958 and built it into one of the most successful real estate development firms in the southeastern United States. Turning their focus to philanthropy in 1985, the Mitchell brothers and Mayer's wife, Arlene, began making financial gifts that have touched all aspects of the University, from business and medicine to athletics, in the



form of endowments and the largest single privately funded scholarship program to date at USA.

Their philanthropy included a gift of \$22 million to support USA's cancer research institute, which was named the Mitchell Cancer Institute in the family's honor. Envisioned by the University's new president shortly after he took office in 1998, it is the only academic cancer research institute in the upper Gulf Coast region.

The Joseph and Rebecca Mitchell Learning Resource Center, named in honor of the Mitchell brothers' parents, also was opened in the Mitchell College of Business to house the business library, a computer lab, a financial analysis center and faculty offices.

2000-2013



The USA Board of Trustees approved the start of NCAA-sanctioned football and marching band programs during a December 2007 meeting. The Jaguar football and marching band programs took the field for the first time in fall 2009.

In the decade that led the way to USA's half-century mark, enrollment topped 15,000, and the University emerged fully as a modern institution of higher education.

New buildings with visually attractive architecture were laid out on a large but tranquil, tree-shaded main campus. Multiple schools and new academic programs had an increasingly profound impact on the economy and quality of life in the region. From an array of new dining and residence halls to state-of-the-art cultural and athletic venues indoor and out, the commitment to enhanced campus life was clearly evident. And top-tier faculty were working ever more closely with students who graduated with high rankings in professions across the spectrum — from health care and business to engineering and teaching.

To achieve this, University leaders, alumni and supporters were emboldened by USA's first comprehensive fundraising campaign. The campaign set a goal of \$75 million to ensure a new era of growth.

With Moulton putting Dr. Joseph Busta Jr. in charge of Campaign USA, the fundraising project that officially launched in 2006 soared far beyond expectations. Along with an early commitment of \$22 million from the Mitchell family, more than 22,000 donors gave to the campaign, which eventually reached \$93.5 million.

The funds helped establish scholarships throughout the University, build and endow the Mitchell Cancer Institute, support the USA Children's & Women's Hospital and finance other projects, including Moulton Tower and Alumni Plaza and Geri Moulton Children's Park.

"Now, in response to both University and regional needs, our inaugural comprehensive campaign, through the investment of thousands of businesses and citizens,



has further demonstrated that USA can provide comprehensive leadership for the northern Gulf Coast, thus securing USA's leadership position for the region," Busta said at the fundraiser's 2009 conclusion.

Campaign USA also was a vital part of a major building program, with a total cost of more than \$500 million in private, federal, state and institutional funds, to create a number of striking new buildings on USA campuses, including structures and sites named for prominent University supporters.

One of the greatest beneficiaries of Campaign USA is the Mitchell Cancer Institute, with investments totaling \$135 million. Established in 2002, the institute is USA's largest research project and is dedicated to developing a world-class comprehensive cancer center that puts innovative research and treatment in a collaborative setting.

With the support of the Mitchell family, the architecturally inspiring 125,000-square-foot research center opened in 2008 off Spring Hill Avenue and now provides care for more than 6,000 cancer patients annually. Its staff of more than 300 includes research specialists seeking new ways of combating the disease.

The flurry of construction on campus that typified the first decade of the new millennium began with a project at the heart of the University. A major expansion of the main library added 53,000 square feet along with new high-tech features and resources, a spacious exhibit area and dramatic campus views.

The initial 40-acre campus now covers 1,200 acres, with 3 million square feet of buildings.

"What we've seen is the evolution of an institution," said Covey, the former senior vice president for academic



The opening of the USA Mitchell Cancer Institute building in 2008 represented the largest research endeavor in University history. The grand opening celebration brought together civic, governmental and business leaders from across the region. For the names of the people in the above photo, see Page 52.





Moulton Tower and Alumni Plaza, named in honor of Gordon and Geri Moulton, quickly became a campus landmark and gathering spot after its dedication in 2010. The couple is shown below at the dedication.

affairs. “It’s been a major university for a long time, but it really now has taken on the architectural qualities, and I think our current president has everything to do with that.”

A favored gathering place on campus is USA’s landmark 140-foot-high bell tower in a placid complex that includes an open area with seating for more than 140, an amphitheater, two arbors and an alumni plaza honoring 1,300 donors to the project.

Dedicated in October 2010 as the Gordon and Geri Moulton Bell Tower and Alumni Plaza, the complex was the result of years of planning and fundraising by the USA National Alumni Association.

“This tower is a permanent reminder of the vital role the alumni play in the University community and family,” said USA National Alumni Association President Alexis Atkins, class of 1997.

The USA Children’s Park was renamed in 2009 the Geri Moulton Children’s Park in honor of her work to create the serene, 7-acre public park at the USA Children’s & Women’s Hospital.

A site of winding footpaths, pocket gardens and benches under the shade of giant oaks, the park is a mesmerizing outdoor sculpture garden with more than 50 bronze figures providing a sense of wonder, joy and peace for its visitors, some seeking solace in a time of bereavement.



The development of the park coincided with the establishment of the nearby USA Mitchell Cancer Institute and a strategic alliance with Infirmity Health System to strengthen health care and cancer treatment throughout the region. It also coincided with planning for the expansion of the USA Children’s & Women’s Hospital, the area’s



The University's first comprehensive fundraising campaign raised \$93.5 million for University programs, scholarships and buildings. At the kickoff for Campaign USA, President Gordon Moulton stands with the Mitchell family, who donated \$22 million to the effort.

leader in births, which delivers more than 2,800 babies each year. The hospital also has the region's only pediatric intensive care unit and offers the region's most advanced care for premature and critically ill newborns in its Hollis J. Wiseman Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

With a goal of addressing a shortage of pharmacy professionals in the Gulf Coast region, a joint program offering a doctor of pharmacy degree in Mobile was established by USA and Auburn University's Harrison School of Pharmacy in 2006. Its first class entered in September 2007.

"The ultimate outcome of this collaboration between Auburn and USA will be improved health care for the people of the state and region," President Moulton said.

The wide and growing array of USA's health care programs was recognized in 2007 with the naming of Stan Hammack as the University's first vice president for health systems. He began overseeing clinical operations, including hospitals and physician practice. USA also created a new cooperative administrative structure for the colleges of Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health Professions under its first vice president for health sciences, Dr. Ron Franks.

In 2009, the University brought the colleges of Allied Health Professions and Nursing back to the main campus with the completion of the new Health Sciences Building.

Along with the advent of JagTran, the shuttle system providing safe and efficient transportation on campus, student life was augmented with the opening of the 116,000-square-foot Student Recreation Center, with exercise and weight rooms, three basketball courts, indoor soccer and racquetball courts, a track, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, and a three-story-high rock climbing wall.

Outdoor activities added for today's students include canoeing and kayaking and intramural competition on six multipurpose playing fields.

A new 20,000-square-foot dining hall opened near student residence halls, offering a range of food stations for hearty and healthy-minded appetites in a casual, comfortable setting.

"Clearly, South Alabama has been willing to invest in its student life," said Colin Al-Greene, the SGA president for 2011-2012.

As a record 3,100 students chose to make the USA campus their home, new apartment and residence hall options were created. The Grove, a privately funded student apartment complex, opened in 2007 and housed 1,000 students by the next year.

On campus, the four-story, 330-bed Stokes Hall opened in 2011 with an apartment for USA's first "faculty in

“What we’ve seen is the evolution of an institution.”

— Pat Covey, retired senior vice president for academic affairs

residence” to help initiate the “learning communities” concept. Along with the presence of a resident faculty member, Stokes Hall also includes classrooms, which strengthen ties between students and faculty.

Greek life has grown over the decades, with 700 students now involved in the nine sororities and 10 fraternities at USA. There are five sorority houses and four fraternity houses on the campus.

As a university in Alabama’s second-most-populous county, USA educates many students who commute to classes from home. But Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. John W. Smith said the improved quality of campus life will continue to attract out-of-state students and increase the demand for on-campus housing, perhaps by as many as 1,000 rooms in the next several years.

For the University to have all the elements of a destination campus, USA students made a request to

trustees in November 2007: Add a first-class football team and marching band program to enhance campus life. The request, in a petition signed by more than 2,300 students, included a kicker: They would be willing to pay higher fees to help fund the programs.

The next month, trustees approved the plan. By February 2008, USA had hired its first football coach, Joey Jones, a Mobile native and former Alabama Crimson Tide star. By July of that year, USA officially began its marching band program with the selection of Dr. Ward Miller as its first director.

Both programs kicked off in September 2009, with the Jaguar football team playing home games at Ladd-Peebles Stadium — and winning 19 straight over the first three years. The USA Jaguar Marching Band drill tower and pavilion was completed in 2010, and the band’s rousing music entertained and energized fans at the football stadium.



USA physicians and clinics improve the quality of life for patients throughout the region. More than 250,000 patients visit USA physicians and clinics each year. USA Children’s & Women’s Hospital recently completed a major expansion.



Shelby Hall, home to the College of Engineering and School of Computing, is a new campus landmark on the corner of Old Shell Road and University Boulevard. U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby helped secure \$40 million in federal funds toward its construction. Shelby and his wife, Dr. Annette Shelby, were honored at the grand opening celebration of the building in September 2012.



Baseball coach Steve Kittrell, whose tenure covered 28 years, took six teams to within one win away from the College World Series and made playing for the Jaguars a possible stepping stone to a professional baseball career. USA players who took the field for Kittrell include two World Series stars whose heroics were memorable — Luis Gonzalez of the Arizona Diamondbacks in 2001 and David Freese of the St. Louis Cardinals in 2011.

In all, the University now competes in 17 men’s and women’s sports.

Online learning, increasingly a part of the interconnected academic world, became a staple of the University’s curriculum at a time when USA already was the region’s largest provider of baccalaureate, graduate and professional studies.

Its graduates also were flowing to professions by showing strong performances on entry tests and licensing exams.

As a measure of the success of the Moulton administration’s initiatives and the quality of the faculty, the University of South Alabama is in the same Carnegie

Foundation classification as Auburn University and the University of Alabama: “Research University/High.”

USA once had to do battle politically to build its engineering school. Auburn was opposed to establishing another engineering school in the state, but the needs of industry in the region justified it. Now more than 1,000 undergraduate and graduate students are pursuing engineering degrees on campus to meet those needs.

“It’s a tremendous contribution to our asset picture when we’re selling Mobile,” said Callahan, the former congressman. “We have a medical school, we have an engineering school, and engineering is very crucial in most every industry.”

The University's connection to the region's high-tech commercial sector was strengthened with creation of USA's Technology and Research Park on 160 acres on the north side of the main campus. The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce named the University of South Alabama its 2002 "Innovator of the Year" in recognition of the initiative, which provides partnerships between high-technology firms and University faculty and students, leading to joint research and product development.

By 2012, more than 600 private sector jobs were centered at the park, which serves a dozen technology and biotechnology companies. It was just one of many examples of USA personnel and resources assisting the region by working with public schools, partnering with local governments and businesses, and providing important services, from weather forecasting to opinion polling.

USA research programs also have given the University a ranking of 68th in the nation in patent proceeds from scientific discoveries. The programs bring some \$60 million into the Mobile area each year through competitive contracts, grants and other revenues.

In its formative years, the University helped ease the pain of the closure of Mobile's biggest employer, Brookley Air Force Base. By its 50th birthday, while the University had ceased using the property for USA programs, it turned Brookley into a major asset for growth.

To help finance a \$72 million pediatric expansion at USA Children's & Women's Hospital, board members of the USA Foundation in 2010 agreed to purchase the Brookley property for \$20 million. For the USA Foundation, the Brookley purchase represents an investment in valuable bayside property that could pay long-term dividends for the University.

The initial acquisition of Brookley acreage in the 1960s was a symbol that the University would be a force in the Port City economy. That symbol turned into a reality of a magnitude few dreamed possible. USA has now replaced the old air base as Mobile's most vital economic force, with a \$2 billion annual impact.

"The creation and operation of this University is the single biggest economic development in Mobile's history," said Edington, the former state legislator. "Big companies like



A new campus recreation building, dedicated in September 2010, helped revolutionize student life on campus. In front, a campus portal at Stadium Boulevard — and portals at South and North drives along with signage at the corner of Old Shell Road and University Boulevard — adds to the overall improved look of the campus.



The Jaguar football and marching band programs, started through a student initiative in 2007, helped energize community support for USA. Alumni returned to Jaguar games to support the team, which went undefeated in its first two seasons.

ThyssenKrupp aren't coming to a place that's uneducated. They all look to education."

USA has educated 18,200 teachers and administrators, including 85 percent of Mobile's public school teachers. USA and its medical facilities, with 5,500 employees, effectively serve as the most potent revenue creator across the county.

The University has sent 2,400 physicians into the field of medicine, including one-third of the practicing doctors in the Mobile area. To that number, add 11,200 graduates in business and commerce, 9,400 nurses, 6,800 engineering and computing professionals and 5,100 in allied health jobs.

"It's pretty nice to sit up on that stage and watch students walk across who have six or seven or eight job offers in their pockets," said Covey.

The medical school alone "has exceeded the hopes and expectations of all the supporters," said former Gov. Albert Brewer, who helped make it a reality. "The need was validated, but I don't think anyone doing pro forma reports about usage and utilization and everything could envision how big it has become."



“The creation and operation of this University is the single biggest economic development in Mobile’s history.”

— Robert Edington, former state representative

That is also true of the USA Medical Center. Initially a basic general hospital, it grew into a far-reaching medical care system that is the region’s only Level I trauma center, burn treatment center and epilepsy monitoring unit. It receives 126,000 patient visits a year, 30,000 for emergency care.

When the University of South Alabama was created in the early 1960s, barely 2 percent of the population had the equivalent of a college degree. The latest census figures show that nearly 26 percent of those in Mobile who are 25 or older have a bachelor’s degree or higher. This educational transformation can be attributed largely to the 75,000 degrees awarded by USA over the past half-century.

From the early years, the University and its medical school had to wage political fights to get established and funded. They were forced repeatedly to stress the extent of need in the Gulf Coast region.

Now after a half-century, said former state legislator William Roberts, “time has proven again and again that this has been more beneficial than even any of us could have imagined it to be.”

Reflecting on USA’s first five decades, Moulton said the University’s contributions in teaching, research, service and health care continue to make an unprecedented positive impact.

“Recently, I was giving a group of area business and civic leaders a campus tour when one remarked, and I’ll quote as best I can, ‘In times like these, it’s great to know we have the University of South Alabama. USA will be here today, tomorrow and forever, leading our community forward in education, health care, economic growth and quality of life. We’ve never needed USA more than we do now.’

“These spontaneous and heartfelt comments gave me a shiver of pride. I was reminded that in difficult times, people look toward those institutions that they trust and depend on to provide solutions to the challenges of the day. We can all take pride that our University has such a hallowed place in the hearts and minds of our many constituencies. At this 50th Anniversary of its founding, USA’s contributions in teaching, research, service and health care are making an unprecedented positive impact on the lives of the people we serve.”



USA’s most impressive contribution to the region has been its graduates. By the 50th Anniversary, more than 75,000 degrees had been awarded.

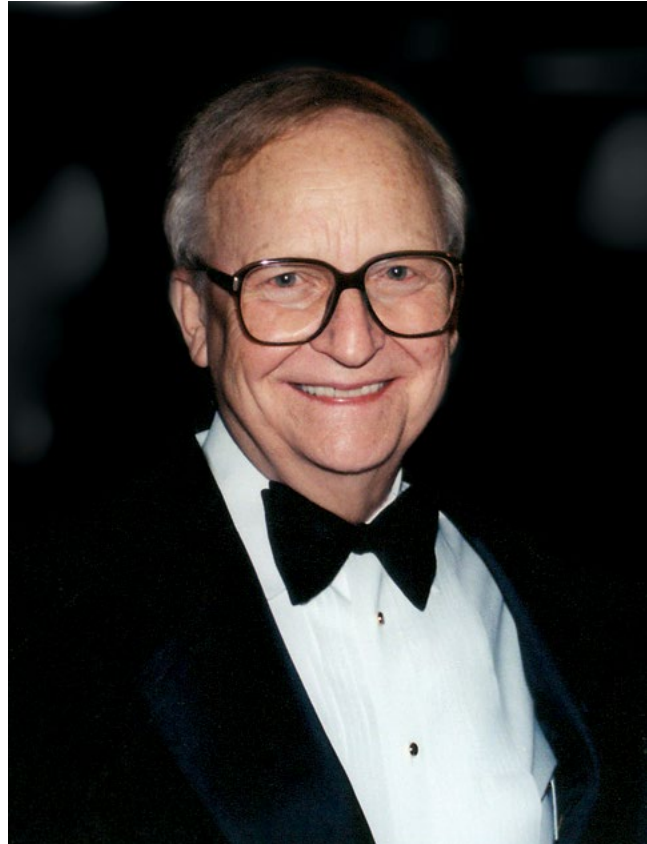
II.

MOMENTS AND MILESTONES

*Highlights and High Points
of Five Decades*



Frederick P. Whiddon: A Visionary Leader Helps Transform a Region



Dr. Fred Whiddon was selected as the University of South Alabama's first president after working with community leaders to launch Mobile's first public four-year university. By the time Whiddon retired, USA was a major teaching, research and health care institution, with nine schools and colleges, a hospital system and an enrollment that topped 12,000. Photos courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

At 30 years old, Dr. Frederick Palmer Whiddon arrived in Mobile to head a small outpost of the University of Alabama. Just three years later, he helped launch an institution that would become the region's dominant force in higher education, forever transforming the education, health care, economy and quality of life of the people of the upper Gulf Coast.

A native of Newville in southeast Alabama, Whiddon came to Mobile from Athens College at a time of rising concern in the area about the vacuum in public higher education. The upper Gulf Coast region was fertile ground — an area with a large population on the brink of industrial expansion and less than stellar per capita higher educational achievement, mostly due to a lack of access to a public four-year university. Whiddon wasted little time in working with community leadership to attempt to expand the University of Alabama Mobile Center into a full-scale branch of the university.

When he was unable to gain traction with the contemporary powers in place at the University of Alabama,

despite enthusiastic local support, Whiddon put his energy toward the creation of a new state university, the first new public university in Alabama in almost 70 years.

The path to the University of South Alabama was strewn with numerous opportunities to abandon the cause. Invariably, the hurdles involved money. But Whiddon was determined, and his shared vision with the community led to the creation of the University of South Alabama by an act of the Alabama Legislature in May 1963.

On Oct. 18, he was unanimously selected as USA's first president by the Board of Trustees, becoming the youngest university president in the country at age 33.

“Whiddon possessed the ability to reach out and make friends with and recruit a substantial cross section of the business, industrial, professional and civic leadership of this old, rather conservative city.”

— John Craig Stewart, former USA professor and historian

“I had my briefcase, some legal pads, a few pencils and a borrowed desk, walked around town looking for office space, put an ad in the paper for a secretary, rented an old office building on St. Louis Street that had been recently vacated, and a university was born,” Whiddon recalled for USA professor John Craig Stewart’s history of the University’s beginnings.

According to Stewart’s account, a citizen leadership group — the Mobile County Foundation for Public Higher Education — laid the groundwork for USA, but someone with a special vision and determination, such as Whiddon, was needed for such a bold undertaking to succeed.

Whiddon, who majored in English and philosophy at Birmingham-Southern College before receiving

a Ph.D. in philosophy and a degree in theology at Emory University, was not from Mobile, noted Stewart, and “perhaps that is just what Mobile needed most, a newcomer with vision. Whiddon possessed the ability to reach out and make friends with and recruit a substantial cross section of the business, industrial, professional and civic leadership of this old, rather conservative city.”

Though there were naysayers along the way regarding the likelihood of a four-year public university in Mobile, Whiddon and his able allies within the city’s business and political hierarchy prevailed, securing an initial state appropriation of \$509,000. From that modest first appropriation and a single building, within 15 years, the University had an annual state appropriation of \$20 million to support numerous colleges on a 600-



Dr. Fred Whiddon addresses students, faculty, invited dignitaries and citizens in front of the Administration Building as the new University of South Alabama is dedicated on Oct. 18, 1964. The building was later named in his honor. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.



Dr. Fred Whiddon played a crucial role in the explosive growth at USA during his more than three decades as president. He immersed himself in all aspects of the University. Photos courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

acre campus, a second campus at Brookley Field and a medical school.

A common theme throughout the early days was the young president's tenacity, which, time and again, paid dividends for the University of South Alabama and the citizens it served.

For instance, USA reached a critical juncture in its history in 1965, when the University was allocated a paltry \$1 million from a \$116 million state education bond issue. Some \$50 million was designated for higher education, with two-thirds going to the University of Alabama and Auburn University. Whiddon refused to sign the proposal, believing to do so would forever "doom USA to insignificance." Whiddon and area legislators were able to negotiate USA's take up to \$3.5 million. Perhaps as importantly, the gumption to do battle paid dividends in future legislative sessions.

Mobile's need for a medical school was always in Whiddon's mind. Again, community leaders rallied. The University acquired Mobile General Hospital, and with a teaching facility secured, the first class of 25 medical students began its studies in January 1973.



USA may have begun small, but its growth under the first president was explosive.

By the time Whiddon retired in 1998, USA was a major teaching, research and health care force with nine schools and colleges, a hospital system and an enrollment that topped 12,000. During Whiddon's tenure, the University awarded 40,000 degrees, transforming the region's economy and workforce and attaining its founders' goal of expanding access to higher education.

And, a pledge from Whiddon's Oct. 18, 1964, University dedication speech had been met.

"We dedicate our efforts to those high purposes for which it is founded: to the banishment of ignorance, to the enrichment of personal life, to the development of those individual talents and skills that will enable each person who studies within these walls of our University to serve to the fullest the needs of his fellow man," Whiddon said. "This, then, is our pledge to the citizens of this state, of this country, indeed to mankind. Less than this we cannot do, if we are to realize the hopes and faith of those who worked without stint to establish the University of South Alabama."

"We dedicate our efforts to those high purposes for which it is founded: to the banishment of ignorance, to the enrichment of personal life, to the development of those individual talents and skills that will enable each person who studies within these walls of our University to serve to the fullest the needs of his fellow man."

— Dr. Fred Whiddon, USA's first president



Clockwise, from upper left, Fred and June Whiddon at their wedding on June 14, 1952, in Tuscaloosa, Ala.; the Whiddons with their children, from left, Karen, Keith, John and Charles, at their home near the University in the late 1960s; and Whiddon next to a statue of his likeness at the dedication of the Frederick Palmer Whiddon Administration building in October 1997. Photos courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

A Leader From Within: Moulton Ushers in USA's Modern Era



Gordon Moulton's history of service at the University has spanned 46 years, including the past 15 years as president.

"Under the leadership of President Moulton, the University has achieved significant milestones in every area."

— James A. "Jim" Yance, USA trustee chairman

When the University of South Alabama Board of Trustees began seeking a successor to the institution's longtime founding president, they knew it was vital to attract someone with vast leadership experience and a deep understanding of the issues facing a young urban university.

The board didn't have to look far to find a uniquely qualified 30-year faculty member, dean and vice president who had been in the trenches at USA almost from day one.

"The man didn't seek the job; the job sought the man," reminisced Ken Kvalheim, a USA alumnus and trustee involved in the search that resulted in Gordon Moulton being named USA's second president in 1998.

Growing up on a farm in southwest Georgia had prepared an 18-year-old Moulton for the rigorous task of attending the Georgia Institute of Technology as a co-op student. After receiving a hard-earned degree in industrial management, he was awarded a full scholarship for graduate school at Emory University. In 1966, Moulton joined the faculty of the brand-new USA College of Business.



At the 2008 University of South Alabama Mitchell Cancer Institute grand opening are Rabbi Steven Silberman of Congregation Ahavas Chesed; retired U.S. Rep. Sonny Callahan; Dr. Mike Boyd, Mitchell Cancer Institute director; Dr. Steve Stokes, chairman pro tempore of the USA Board of Trustees; Dr. Asa Green, president of the USA Foundation; President Gordon Moulton; Gov. Bob Riley; philanthropist Abraham Mitchell; philanthropist and USA trustee Arlene Mitchell; U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby; U.S. Rep. Jo Bonner; state Sen. Vivian Davis Figures; Alabama first lady Patsy Riley; Mobile County Commission President Steve Nodine; U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions; state Rep. Victor Gaston; Chandler Bramlett of Infirmiry Health System; Mobile Mayor Sam Jones; Bill Seifert, board chairman of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce; and the Rev. Thomas Heard of St. John's Episcopal Church.

Possessing the versatility needed by the young University, Moulton established the department of computer and information sciences, and later served as founding dean of USA's School of Computer and Information Sciences (now the School of Computing). He served as director of computer services, dean of administrative services and a 15-year appointment as vice president for services and planning.

In 15 years as president, Moulton has “transformed the University into one of the nation’s finest educational institutions, a community partner that sets the tone of excellence, and he has created an economic development engine at the University that provides countless jobs and resources for citizens throughout Mobile and the region,” said USA trustee and Mobile Mayor Sam Jones.

James A. “Jim” Yance, chairman pro tempore of USA’s Board of Trustees, recalled how he has known the Moultons since arriving as a new student in 1966.

“When I think about the success the University of South Alabama enjoys today, Gordon and Geri Moulton immediately come to mind,” Yance said.



In 2007, students collected more than 2,000 signatures in favor of starting NCAA-sanctioned football and a marching band at USA. They presented the 15-foot scroll of names and a football to President Gordon Moulton during halftime of a Jaguar basketball game.

“Under the leadership of President Moulton, the University has achieved significant milestones in every area, including student enrollment and graduation, academic program development, health care delivery, enhancement of student life and the campus environment, research funding, private sector giving, community involvement and economic enhancement, and the list goes on and on.



President Gordon Moulton addresses the University of South Alabama faculty at its fall 2011 general meeting at the Faculty Club. Moulton joined the faculty in 1966, three years after USA was founded.

“Geri Moulton, likewise, has contributed generously of her many talents, time, resources and energy and has been fully invested in the success and betterment of not only the University, but the total community in which we live.

“I find it truly inspiring to work with people who are so committed to the highest and the best for this University,” Yance said.

During Moulton’s presidency, USA has:

- Grown in enrollment by a third to a record 15,000.
- Nearly doubled the number of degrees awarded to 75,000.
- Quadrupled its scholarship program and created the University Honors Program.
- Expanded its academic reputation and degree programs.
- Implemented student life enhancements including football and marching band and new recreation, dining and housing facilities.
- Completed more than a half-billion dollars in construction, supporting every mission of the University.
- Expanded health care through creation of the USA Mitchell Cancer Institute and a major addition to USA Children’s & Women’s Hospital,

complementing efforts of the USA Medical Center and the physicians and professionals of the USA Health System, who treat more than 250,000 area citizens annually.

- Initiated the first comprehensive fundraising campaign at USA, generating more than \$93.5 million to support all missions of the university.
- Become one of Mobile’s most powerful economic drivers, employing more than 5,500 people, and adding \$2 billion annually to the area economy.
- Doubled its contract and grant research program, achieving the same Carnegie research ranking as Auburn University and the University of Alabama.
- Created the USA Technology and Research Park, employing 600 private sector professionals.
- Made numerous enhancements to the art, history and culture of the Mobile region.

In addition to more than 46 years of service, the Moultons have supported USA with more than \$7 million in gifts toward numerous institutional priorities, including the USA Mitchell Cancer Institute, Moulton Tower and Alumni Plaza, Geri Moulton Children’s Park at USA Children’s & Women’s Hospital, student scholarships, faculty support, USA’s creative writing program, athletics and many others.



Participating in the 2010 ribbon-cutting at Moulton Tower and Alumni Plaza are, from left, trustees Dr. Steven P. Furr, E. Thomas Corcoran, Christie D. Miree, John M. Peek, Donald L. Langham and Bryant Mixon; U.S. Rep. Jo Bonner; Jim Yance, trustee chairman pro tempore; President Gordon Moulton; Geri Moulton; Dr. Joseph F. Busta Jr., vice president for development and alumni relations; the Rev. Thomas Heard, St. John’s Episcopal Church; Kimberly N. Proctor, Student Government Association president; Dr. Jim Connors, Faculty Senate president; and Alexis Atkins, USA National Alumni Association president.



At the 2012 grand opening of Shelby Hall, President Gordon Moulton presents Sen. Richard Shelby and Dr. Annette Shelby with a resolution from the University's Board of Trustees, thanking the couple for their support. From left are U.S. Rep. Jo Bonner, Board Chairman Pro Tempore Jim Yance, Geri Moulton, School of Computing Dean Dr. Alec Yasinsac, College of Engineering Dean Dr. John Steadman, Moulton and the Shelbys.

Moulton's contributions have been widely praised by the community. He was awarded the Civitan Mobilian of the Year award in 2002, and the Moultons' service was forever commemorated in 2009 with the naming by USA's Board of Trustees of the new landmark Gordon and Geri Moulton Bell Tower and Alumni Plaza.

"The true measure of a great university is ultimately demonstrated through the accomplishments and recognition of its graduates and the contributions of its faculty through the creation of new knowledge and ideas," Moulton said.

"The quality of the faculty, the staff and the students in

any institution ultimately drives this outcome, and I have been privileged to work with the very best.

"We're a comprehensive University with a huge public service mission, much of which is associated with our hospitals and clinics. Those employees each day focus on the excellent care and treatment of thousands of patients and the easing of disease.

"It has been highly satisfying and a privilege to be a part of an institution that, through its teaching, research, service and health care missions, has made and will forever continue to make a remarkable positive impact on the quality of life of countless people."

Highlights of Campus Improvements during the Moulton Administration

- USA Mitchell Cancer Institute
- USA Technology & Research Park
- USA Children's & Women's Hospital Expansion
- Student Recreation Center
- Shelby Hall (Engineering and Computing Sciences)
- Health Sciences Building (Nursing and Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health Professions)
- Mitchell Center Arena
- Meisler Hall Student Services Building
- University Library Addition
- Gordon and Geri Moulton Bell Tower and Alumni Plaza
- Faculty Club
- Specialized Laboratory Building
- Stanky Field Renovation
- Laidlaw Performing Arts Center (Dramatic Arts and Music)
- Mitchell College of Business Renovation
- Joseph & Rebecca Mitchell Learning Resource Center
- JagTran Campus Transit System
- Geri Moulton Children's Park
- Alfred and Lucile Delchamps Archaeology Building
- USA Baldwin County College of Nursing Complex
- Student Dining Facility
- Living-Learning Residence Halls
- Campus Entry Portals
- Intramural Fields and Fieldhouse
- Football Fieldhouse and Practice Fields
- Marching Band Practice Field
- Multi-Use Facility — Track, Softball, Soccer
- Bookstore Renovation
- Student Center Bookstore Mall
- Student Center Renovation
- Renovation of PE Building and Old Recreation Center
- Glass Arts Building
- Sorority and Fraternity Houses

High-Quality Faculty Provide Vital Classroom and Research Experiences



University students benefit from the high-quality faculty classroom instruction and research projects. Students also gain experience through unique classroom environments, such as the stock trading room at the Mitchell College of Business.

Even as a young academic institution in the 1960s, the University of South Alabama set high standards for its faculty. The emphasis on quality was a detail not lost on Dr. Fred Whiddon, the founding president.

“Department heads and professors whenever possible would have terminal degrees in the field. He didn’t want, if avoidable, to use graduate students,” said Robert Edington, a lawyer who was instrumental in helping create USA while serving in the Alabama House of Representatives.

Among the faculty USA attracted in the first few years: doctoral graduates from Harvard University, Columbia University, Emory University and the University of Virginia.

The vision and practice of hiring and retaining top-notch academic talent continue today, aided by the University’s continuing growth and enhanced academic stature.

“It’s the right size of university — it’s not so big that a faculty member gets lost, but it’s big enough that we have a critical mass of solid faculty,” said Dr. Ronald Franks, USA’s vice president for health sciences, who oversees all academic programs in the health care fields. “This ensures that each new faculty member gets assistance in their development, in their teaching and in their research.”

“USA is fortunate to have faculty members who are of the caliber you would find at America’s best universities, which explains why our students are nationally competitive.”

— Dr. David Johnson, senior vice president for academic affairs

Franks said faculty candidates considering a career at USA also like the addition of doctoral programs and the construction of new buildings and amenities, and they welcome the University's collaborative nature. The University offers 11 doctoral degrees — including doctorates in business administration and systems engineering, which were added in 2013 — along with 49 bachelor's degrees and 31 master's degrees.

Faculty members contribute not only through their work in the classroom, but also through scholarly research and outreach, whether it is pushing back the frontiers of science, developing new cures for diseases, enhancing the region's economic and environmental health, improving our region's K-12 schools, preserving Gulf Coast history and culture, or touching lives through visual and performing arts, among many other contributions.

Faculty members win an impressive share of research grants, awards and recognitions. Among recent accomplishments: the National Book Award for Fiction, the Distinguished Contribution Award from the American Sociological Association, the Visionary Leader distinction from the University of Alabama at Birmingham's School of Nursing, Outstanding Book in the Field of Instructional Design, and numerous Fulbrights and fellowships.



Quality faculty have been a tradition since USA's earliest days. Through teaching, research and outreach, faculty members offer students important educational opportunities. The faculty have also been part of USA milestones, including commencement ceremonies.

Dr. David Johnson, who has oversight of all of USA's nonmedical academic programs as senior vice president for academic affairs, said faculty quality is the ultimate driver of the success of the University, its students and graduates.

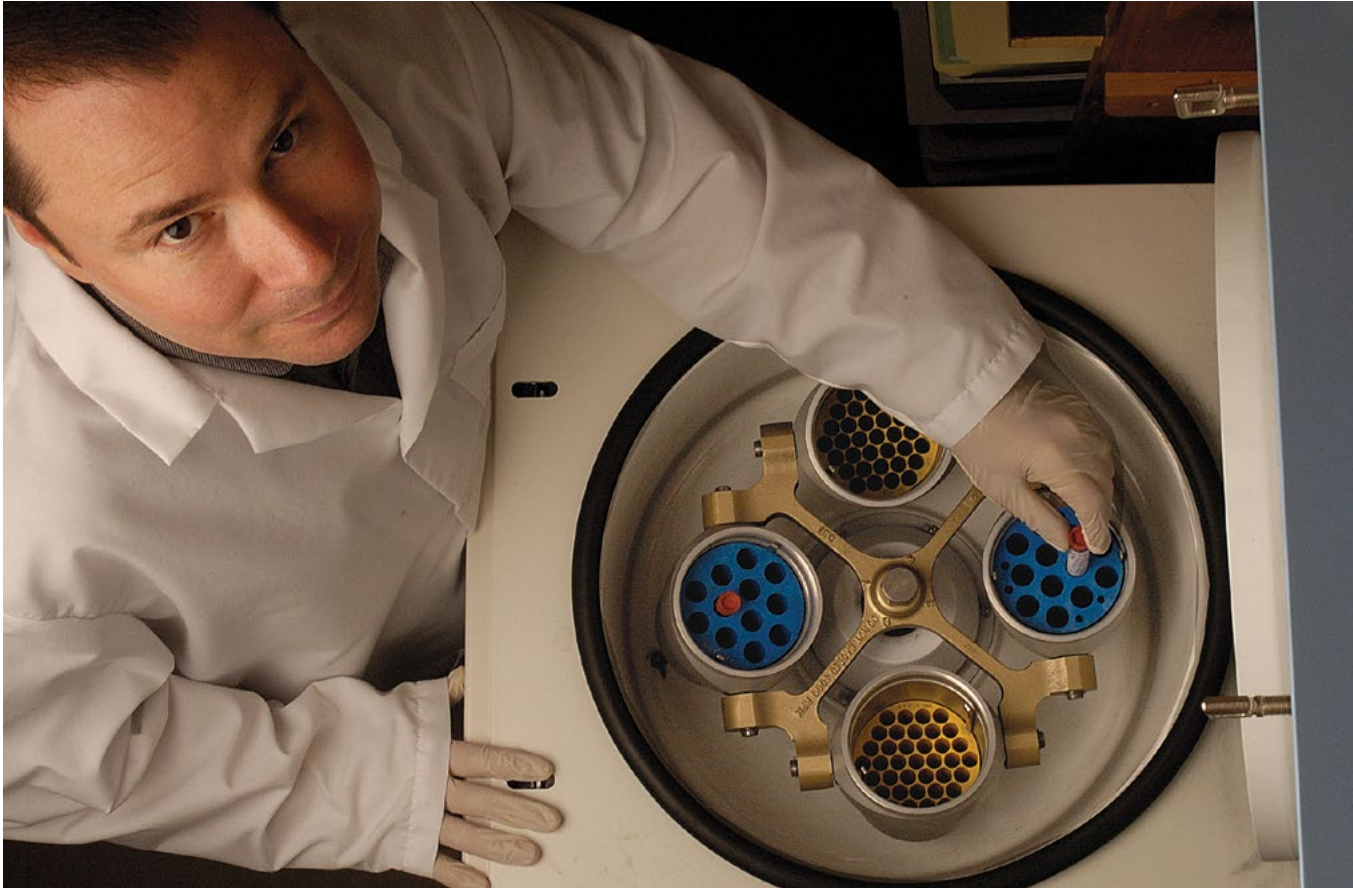
"USA is fortunate to have faculty members who are of the caliber you would find at America's best universities, which explains why our students are nationally competitive in their success, as measured by such benchmarks as standardized exams and success in gaining licensure in their respective fields," Johnson said. "Because of its outstanding faculty, USA students truly enjoy an educational experience that matches or exceeds the quality found at any university in the country."



For a list of 50 Outstanding Faculty Members, as selected by the Faculty Senate, see Page 191.

Nursing students benefit from top-quality instruction from their professors, as well as the latest learning tools. Human patient simulators offer students hands-on experience managing complex patient care situations, such as heart attacks, trauma and seizures.

Faculty Research and Scholarly Activity Enhance Quality of Life



With external contract and grant funding surpassing \$60 million annually, USA's research program now ranks as "Research University/High" by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

As they teach tomorrow's leaders in the classroom, University of South Alabama faculty also pursue the creation of new knowledge through discoveries and innovations that advance the quality of life for people of the Gulf Coast region and beyond.

Among many other accomplishments in research and scholarship, USA faculty:

- Seek lifesaving cures and disease treatments.
- Protect the region's coastal environment and valuable marine resources.
- Develop better weather prediction.
- Improve education for local K-12 students.
- Enrich lives through arts and music.
- Preserve Gulf Coast culture and history.
- Contribute to the nation's defense.
- Engineer new products for industry.
- Stimulate economic development.

In recent years, the University has made remarkable strides in its research programs, reaching a key milestone. External contract and grant funding has surpassed \$60 million annually, elevating USA into the same ranking as the University of Alabama and Auburn University, according to the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. USA's classification as a "Research University/High" institution is based on the number of doctoral degrees awarded and the value of its research.

“Now, more than ever, modern universities must also be the torchbearers for innovation and the creation of new knowledge.”

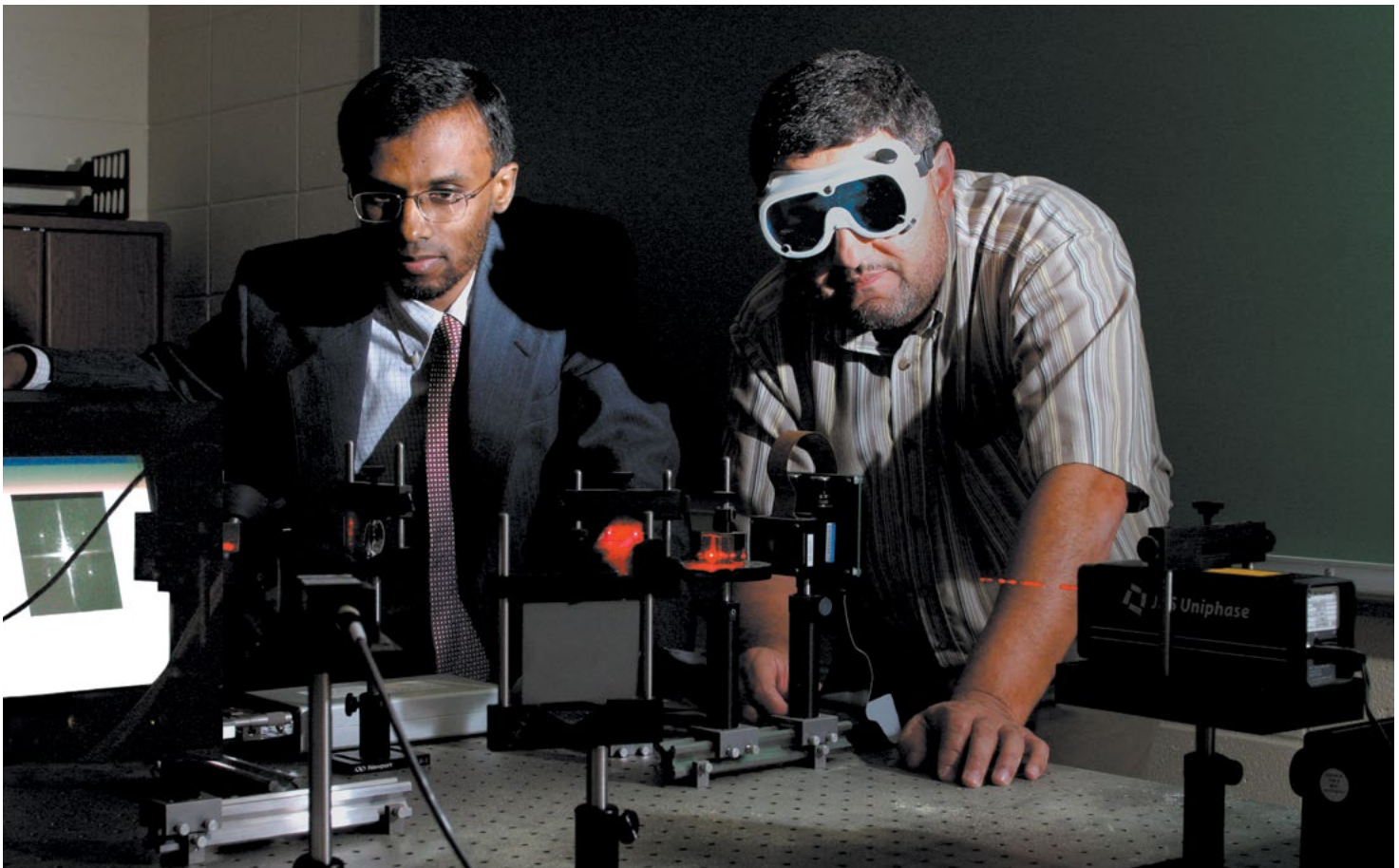
— Gordon Moulton, USA president

“USA has always been known for providing a superior classroom experience. The recent growth in the institution’s research program is further evidence of the expanding quality and productivity of our faculty, as well as the University’s increasing contribution toward a better quality of life for the citizens we serve,” said President Gordon Moulton.

For instance, in the USA department of marine sciences, marine biologists work from ships and inside laboratories to protect the Gulf of Mexico environment. They monitor and enhance the health of fish and shellfish and serve as the critical mass of talent for the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, a nationally recognized consortium. In the wake of the massive 2010 BP oil spill, USA scientists rapidly responded to the crisis and tracked the impacts on sea life and the progress of the recovery.

Research at the University is also improving and saving lives. USA physician researchers have developed medical breakthroughs and are providing treatment not available elsewhere in the region. Highlights include leading-edge work in treating trauma injuries, burns, pediatric diseases, high-risk pregnancies, cancer, epilepsy and related brain disorders, and diseases of the lungs. Medical discoveries fuel a regional economy with a strong biotechnology and biomedicine presence and create an environment in which doctors are encouraged to bring the latest treatments to patients.

The USA Mitchell Cancer Institute is the first academic cancer research institute in the upper Gulf Coast region. Research at the institute, which was initiated in 2000, improves cancer care by turning new knowledge into novel treatments. Investigators in labs quickly share



Research extends throughout the University across all colleges and schools, including the College of Engineering, where electrical and computer engineers use lasers to perfect optical computing systems.



information with doctors to improve patient care, and patients' experiences are brought back to the lab for further study.

The University's research extends into other areas of life. Education faculty help transform K-12 education through partnerships and research in local schools. Chemistry faculty founded a world-renowned group investigating ionic liquids with industrial and commercial applications. Meteorologists at the Coastal Weather Research Center protect businesses and residents by predicting dangerous weather.

USA has made myriad research and outreach contributions in the arts and humanities. In the visual arts complex on campus, for instance, glass-blowing artists craft unique pieces inside a state-of-the-art, 5,000-square-foot studio — the only one among Alabama's universities. USA faculty also preserve the region's history through the USA Center for Archaeological Studies. Faculty and students, side by side, have uncovered Alabama's earliest colonial history at dig sites and saved evidence for public viewing and future study. USA's Archaeology Museum



The USA Mitchell Cancer Institute offers residents of the Gulf Coast high-quality cancer treatment in a research setting. The Wall of Hope, above, is a signature architectural element of the Mitchell Cancer Institute. It gives patients hope to see researchers at work and allows researchers to see the patients they are trying to help.

Through the scholarly pursuits of its faculty, USA is dedicated to providing the vital mind power needed to enhance the educational, health care and economic progress of the Gulf Coast region.

serves as a showplace for some of the artifacts of the region's past. USA's talented arts faculty also contribute to the quality of life of the region through their performance art, including music and theater.

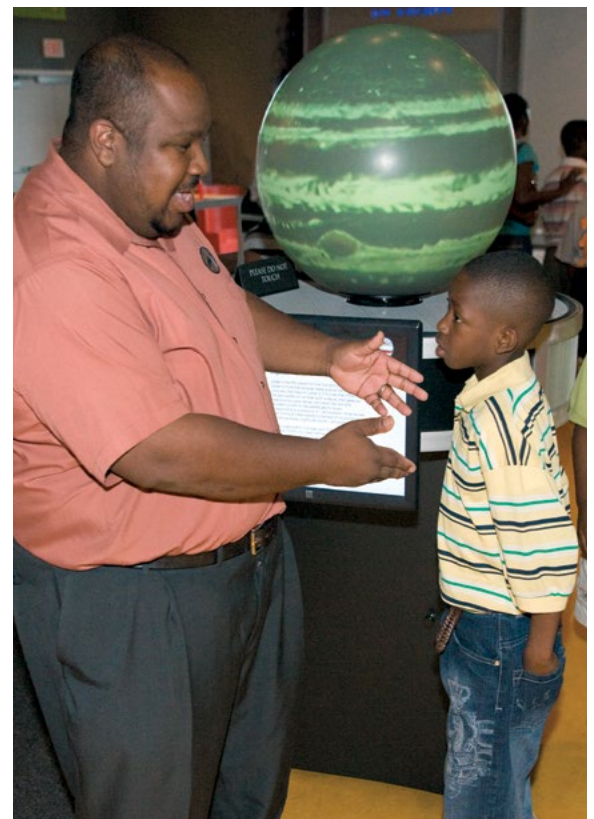
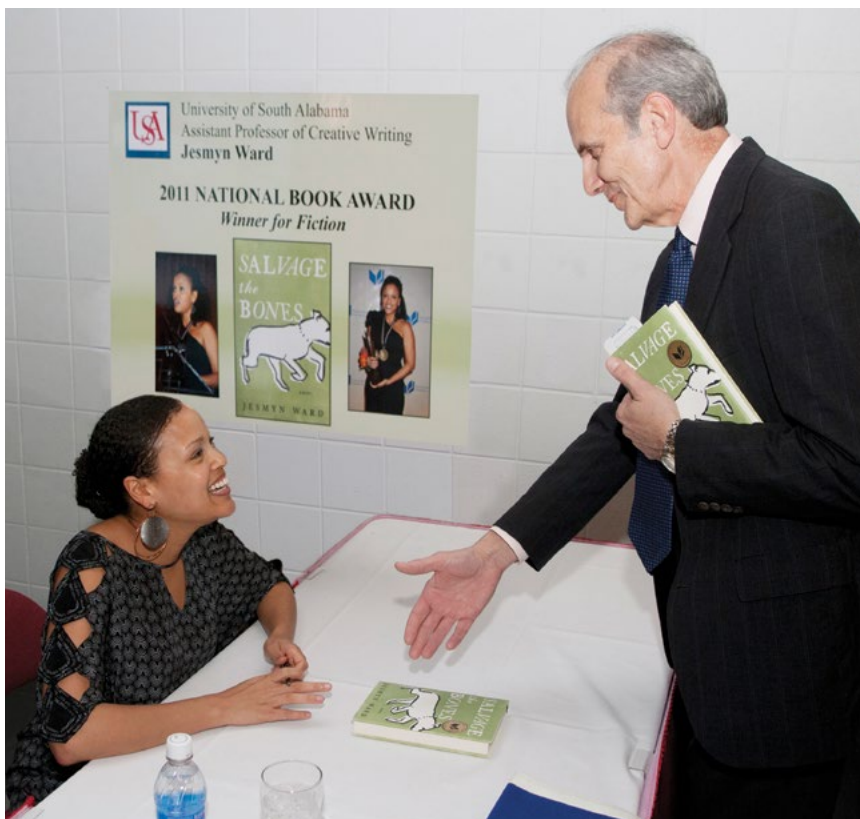
The development of USA as a research hub has a proven record of sparking economic growth through patents, licensing revenue, grant-funded projects that create jobs, and start-up companies founded on technologies discovered at USA. The University is now among the nation's top earners in licensing revenue generated from academic inventions in recent rankings by the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

One example of a discovery that both improves lives and benefits the economy came in 2010, when Swift Biotechnology Inc. was founded on licensed technology developed at the USA Mitchell Cancer Institute. Swift's new screening tool for endometrial and ovarian cancers is predicted to save 22,000 lives and over \$1 billion in health care costs annually through early detection.

USA's accomplishments in the laboratory also have been a catalyst for the University's largest-ever public-private partnership, the USA Research and Technology Park, through which USA faculty, students and alumni work with the private sector in high-technology and biotechnology industries in a USA-owned facility just north of campus. Begun just a decade ago, the park now houses some 600 high-technology private sector jobs that are helping to support the regional economy.

Through the scholarly pursuits of its faculty, USA is dedicated to providing the vital mind power needed to enhance the educational, health care and economic progress of the Gulf Coast region and beyond.

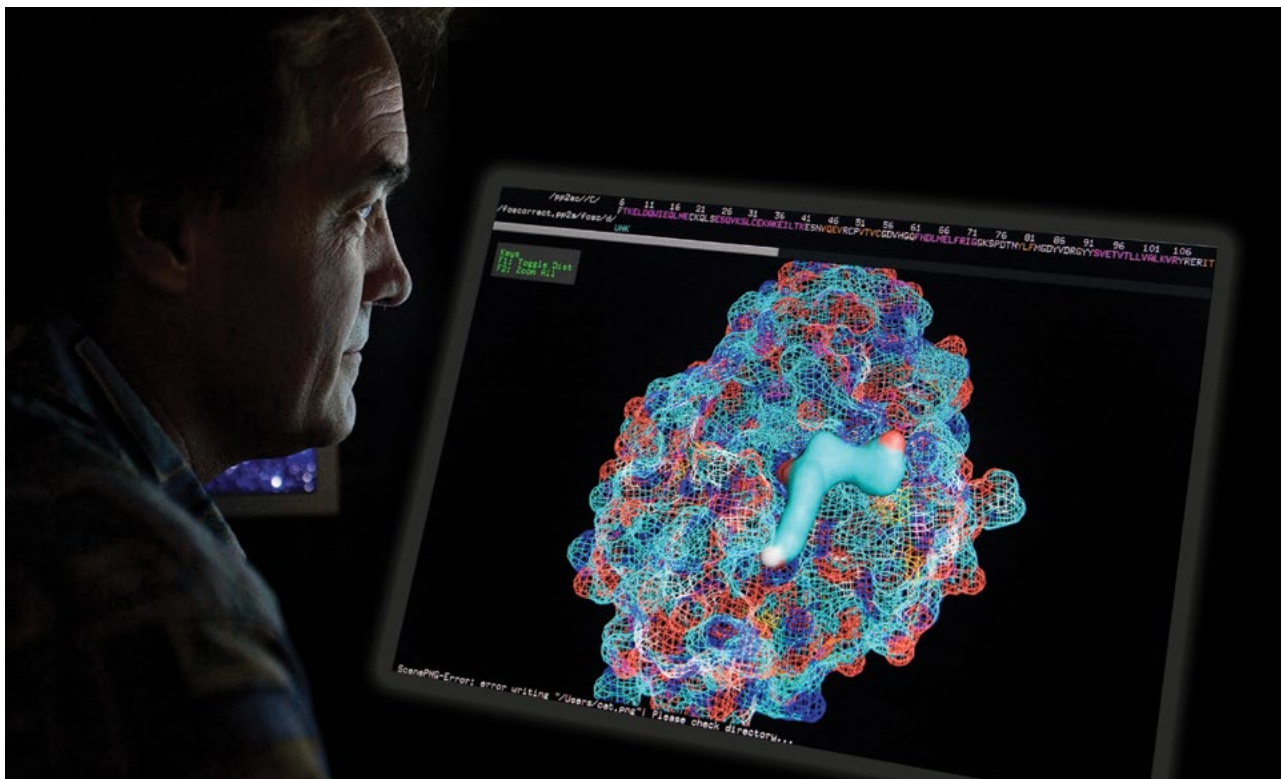
"Our primary mission remains: We teach and transfer vital knowledge from generation to generation," Moulton said. "But now, more than ever, modern universities must also be the torchbearers for innovation and the creation of new knowledge. Equally important, they must reach out and put their findings to work in the service of humanity."



Above left, University of South Alabama Assistant Professor of Creative Writing Jesmyn Ward, who won the 2011 National Book Award for fiction for her work "Salvage the Bones," is greeted by Dr. Ronald Franks, vice president for health sciences. Above right, Dr. Andre Green, associate professor in the College of Education, greets young students as part of the college's many partnerships with the K-12 educational system, helping educate the next generation in science, math and technology.

50 in 50: Five Decades of Research, Scholarly Activity and Creative Works

The following activities are representative of the outstanding research, scholarly activity and creative works that have been conducted at the University of South Alabama since 1963. They were selected by an interdisciplinary panel made up of faculty and administrators from USA colleges, units, research committees and the Faculty Senate.



Biochemist Dr. Richard Honkanen has focused on the biochemical basis of human disease, including cancer and vascular disease.

- **Dr. Christian Abee and Dr. June Ayling**
Pharmacology
Research in Parkinson's Disease and Treatment
- **Dr. Mohammad Alam**
Electrical Engineering
Automatic Target Recognition for Signal and Image Processing in Ultrafast Computing
- **Dr. Crews Askew and Dr. Stephen Morisani**
Chemical Engineering
Reduction of Chlorine and Chlorine Dioxide Emissions during Pulp & Paper Production Processes
- **Dr. Steve Bailey and Dr. June Ayling**
Pharmacology
Folate Research in Anemia, Birth Defects, Cardiovascular Disease and Cognitive Function
- **Dr. Julius Blum**
Marketing
Development of Structural Model for the Alabama Seafood Industry
- **Dr. Barbara Broome**
Nursing
The Broome Pelvic Muscle Self-Efficacy Scale in Urinary Incontinence Research
- **Dr. Joseph Coggin**
Medicine
Research in Biomarkers and Early Detection of Cancer
- **Dr. Errol Crook and Dr. Harvey White**
Center for Healthy Communities
Community-Based Studies of Health Disparities of Minorities

- **Rene Culler**
Visual Arts
Works of Art in Korean Glass
- **Valorie Dearmon, Lisa Mestas, Beth Anderson and Linda Roussel**
Nursing, Medical Center
Frontline Engagement and Transforming Care at the Bedside
- **Dr. Jagdish Dhawan**
Chemical Engineering
Proto-Oil Development as an Alternative Energy
- **Dr. Scott Douglass**
Civil Engineering
Saving America's Beaches: The Causes of and Solutions to Beach Erosion
- **Dr. James M. Downey**
Physiology
Research in "Preconditioning" Response in the Heart
- **Dr. Philip Feldman**
Education
Research Focus on Technology in Education with Impact in K-12 and Higher Education
- **Dr. John Freeman**
Biology
Research on the Development of Marine Invertebrates and Blue Crab with Impact on the Seafood Industry
- **Frye Gaillard**
History
Cradle of Freedom: Alabama and the Movement that Changed America in American Civil Rights Movement
- **Dr. Albert Gapud**
Physics
Superconductor Discoveries with Impact in Medicine and Engineering
- **Dr. Donald Gibson**
Marketing
Marketing the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway for International Commerce
- **Dr. Romulus Godang**
Physics
Research in Subparticles Using the BaBar Detector
- **Dr. Robert Gray and Dr. Joel Lewis**
Education
Mobile in Black & White, a documentary film series
- **Carolyn Haines**
English
Penumbra and over 70 works of fiction
- **Dr. Paul Helminger**
Physics
Research in Microwave Microscopy and Physics; Alabama Science in Motion
- **Dr. Norris Hoffman**
Chemistry
Synthesis of Complexes for Converting the Coal Gas into Commercial Materials
- **Dr. Richard Honkanen**
Biochemistry
Research in Biochemical Basis of Human Disease with Emphasis on Cancer and Vascular Diseases

Anthropologist Dr. Gregory Waselkov has spent a career developing a better understanding of the early inhabitants of the Mobile region, one of the primary objectives of the USA Archaeology Museum.





Dr. Sue Walker earned the title of poet laureate of the state of Alabama for her creative accomplishments.

- **Dr. Ronald Keine**
Marine Sciences
Research in Uncovering the Causes of Fish Poisoning Affecting Humans Worldwide
- **Dr. Sytske K. Kimball**
Earth Sciences
Founding of USA Mesonet, a Network of 25 Research-Grade, Automated Weather Stations along the Gulf Coast
- **Dr. Jennifer Langhrinrichsen-Rohling**
Psychology
Research on Suicidal Behaviors and Intimate Partner Violence; *Life Attitude Scales*
- **Dr. Robert N. Lausch**
Microbiology
Research in Herpes Simplex Viral Infections of the Eye and Infectious Blindness Worldwide
- **Dr. Thomas Lincoln**
Physiology
Research in the Cyclic GMP Signal Transduction Pathway in Animals and Human Cells
- **Dr. Arnold Luterman**
Surgery
Research in Treatment of Burn Injuries, Surgical, Medical, Grafting, and Interdisciplinary Psychosocial Support
- **Dr. Joseph Mozur**
Foreign Language & Literature
Interpreting between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. on START and Other Treaties
- **Dr. Marino Niccolai and Thomas Hain**
Computer & Information Science
Research in the Production of Paper Products for Optimal Scheduling of Resources and Processes
- **Dr. James C. Parker**
Physiology
Research in Cause and Prevention of Lung Injuries in Mechanical Ventilation
- **Dr. Anh-Vu Phan**
Mechanical Engineering
Research in Development of Novel Modeling Techniques in Emerging Materials
- **Dr. John Steven Picou**
Sociology/Anthropology
Research in Coastal Resources & Resiliency, Exxon Valdez Disaster, and Sociology of Katrina
- **Dr. Bernard Quinn**
Foreign Language & Literature
Founding of *Contemporary French Civilization*, an Interdisciplinary Journal of the Francophone World

- **Dr. Charles Rodning**
Surgery
Humanism in Medicine

- **Dr. Linda Schele**
Art and Art History
Research in Mayan Civilizations and Deciphering of the Mayan Code

- **Dr. Robert Shipp**
Marine Sciences
Research in Gulf Fish Species and their Environmental and Commercial Management

- **Dr. Stephen Sikes**
Biology
Research in Biological Polymer to Prevent Plaque Formation and Tooth Decay

- **Dr. Joan Sinnott and Dr. Charles Brown**
Psychology
Comparative Investigations of Biological Processes in Normal and Disordered Hearing and Communication

- **Dr. Troy Stevens**
Center for Lung Biology
Research in the Translational Models of the Causes and Consequences of Pneumonia

- **Dr. Richard Sykora**
Chemistry
Research on Lanthanides, or Rare Earth Elements

- **Dr. Aubrey Taylor**
Physiology
Research in the Mechanisms of Pulmonary Edema and Acute Lung Injury

- **Dr. Terrence Tumpey**
Microbiology
Research in Infectious Viruses, and Highly Pathogenic Influenza

- **Dr. Sue B. Walker**
English
Blood Must Bear Your Name and other literary works

- **Dr. Jesmyn Ward**
English
Salvage the Bones, a novel

- **Dr. Gregory A. Waselkov**
Sociology/Anthropology
Archaeological Research on the French Colonial Settlement of Old Mobile

- **Dr. Glenn L. Wilson**
Cell Biology & Neuroscience
Research in Mitochondrial DNA Repair

- **Dr. Herbert H. Winkler**
Microbiology
Research in Rickettsia Metabolism and Transport Mechanisms, and Immunological Response of the Host



Dr. Troy Stevens is part of a multidisciplinary team of USA faculty unlocking the mysteries of the human cardiorespiratory system through the Center for Lung Biology.

Students Excel in the Classroom and in Life After College



Out of more than 50,000 Alabama test-takers, only a handful make a perfect score on the ACT each year. In 2008, Landon Sykora was the only Alabamian with a perfect score who decided to stay in-state for college, choosing to attend the University of South Alabama.

There's an easy way to find out just how well the University of South Alabama is preparing its students.

Just ask Dr. David Johnson, senior vice president for academic affairs, who points to test results that document how well graduates do in licensing examinations.

Whether it's testing for teachers, nurses, businesspeople, physicians, or a host of other professions, USA graduates demonstrate superior performance. For example, in 2011-12 alone:

- USA's MBA graduating class scored in the 97th percentile on a field examination given nationwide. Undergraduates in business scored in the 80th percentile at graduation.
- In the physician assistant program, 95 percent of graduates passed licensure exams, well above the national rate.
- Students in academic programs within the Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health Professions achieved a 95 percent first-time passage rate on licensure exams.
- The College of Nursing's first-time student passage rate on state licensure boards was 95 percent, and the college graduates more nurses than any other program in the state.
- The social work licensure exam passage rate was 100 percent.
- All teacher education graduates in the College of Education passed their licensure exam.
- USA College of Medicine graduates had a 95 percent first-time passage rate on the National Medical Licensure Exam.

The list goes on and on. Each year, USA students score high marks — a tribute to the quality of students and faculty instruction.

“Our programs are rigorous,” Johnson said, “but they have to be rigorous for the students to learn what they need to learn to succeed.”

“Job one at the University of South Alabama is providing a high-quality education for students.” — Dr. David Johnson, senior vice president for academic affairs

South Alabama graduates are everywhere: in the region’s hospitals caring for the sick, in schools teaching next generations, at the top of the professions and leading in industry and business. Many undergraduates have gone on to earn advanced degrees at the nation’s most prestigious graduate schools.

In its first half-century, the University has educated:

- 18,200 teachers and school administrators, including 85 percent of those in Mobile and Baldwin counties.
- 11,200 business and accounting professionals.
- 9,400 nurses.
- 6,800 engineering and computer science professionals.
- 5,100 allied health professionals.
- 2,400 physicians, including one-third of Mobile-area doctors.
- Thousands of others in a variety of fields.

In addition to meeting the educational needs of the Gulf Coast, USA’s academic programs draw students from every state in the union, as well as from numerous countries around the world, with enrollment now topping 15,000.

In recent years, USA has bolstered its student quality through the dramatic enhancement of its scholarship

program and creation of the Honors Program, which offers students enriched honors general studies courses, honors seminars and the experience of completing an honors senior project.

USA’s academic colleges and schools include:

- Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health Professions.
- College of Arts and Sciences.
- Mitchell College of Business.
- School of Computing.
- School of Continuing Education and Special Programs.
- College of Education.
- College of Engineering.
- College of Medicine.
- College of Nursing.
- Harrison School of Pharmacy (Auburn University program hosted at USA).

Regardless of the field of study, a USA education prepares graduates for succeeding in a competitive workforce and in their communities.

“Job one at the University of South Alabama is providing a high-quality education for students,” Johnson said.



An education at the University of South Alabama prepares thousands of graduates each year to enter a competitive workforce.

Campus Improvements Foster Enhanced Atmosphere for Learning



Physical improvements to the University of South Alabama campus have given USA a sense of place that is attractive to students and positioned the University for future growth. Shelby Hall, above, was completed in 2012 and anchors the campus at University Boulevard and Old Shell Road.

Thomas Jefferson called his vision of a university “the academical village,” stressing that a serene and attractive college campus actually aids a student in his studies.

The University of South Alabama has focused in recent years on making improvements and changes to its campus that enhance its own sense of place for learning.

Those improvements have included centralizing and defining the campus itself, creating a harmonious architectural style, and expanding online learning.

“When I go into the community, people are excited about USA’s physical improvements and the beautification of our campus,” said USA President Gordon Moulton. “These enhancements have reflected the maturing of the institution as a desirable place to live, learn, work and play.”

One of the most visible recent efforts to create a campus identity has been the construction of portals or permanent landmark signage at several key locations: USA North Drive at University Boulevard, USA South Drive at University Boulevard, USA Stadium Boulevard at Old Shell Road, and Old Shell Road and University Boulevard. The portals were designed to complement the University’s landmark Moulton Tower and Alumni Plaza.

These dramatic gateways announce to the community, the visitor and the prospective student that they are crossing the boundary into USA and were designed and built to mimic what, since the late 1990s, has become the architectural style of the University.

“When I go into the community, people are excited about USA’s physical improvements and the beautification of our campus.”

— Gordon Moulton, USA president

That style was essentially established with the construction of the Mitchell Center. The use of red velour blended brick along with cast stone cornices and trim set the standard for subsequent buildings, including the portals.

The completion of Meisler Hall in 2006, which provides a central location for student services, took that style further with the addition of gray metal roofing and accents and the introduction of punched window façades.

The 2009 completion of the Health Sciences Building, a new home for the Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health Professions and the College of Nursing, combined the vertical nature of the Mitchell Center with the horizontal layout of Meisler and tied the two together with a central rotunda.

The size and prominent location of the Health Sciences Building also established the gateway building concept that was furthered by the 2010 completion of the Student Recreation Center at the southwestern edge of the campus and the Shelby Hall engineering and computing building at University Boulevard and South Drive, completed in 2012.

Recent improvements and expansions to academic facilities have included the Joseph and Rebecca Mitchell Learning Resource Center, which was opened in 2007 in the Mitchell College of Business to house the business library, a computer lab, financial analysis center and faculty offices.

Encompassing all of this new construction has been the establishment of the University’s zones, which include Academics, Administration, Athletics, Residences and Recreation. While the separation of the zones promotes learning by placing similar facilities together, the University is also working on a variety of efforts to link the zones into a unified campus.

Part of the centralization effort has included moves to “bring home” some of the more outlying features of the university, namely the Nursing and Allied Health programs, as well as the Center for Continuing Education and Conference Services, which had been located at Brookley. Efforts continue to move The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library to the main campus from the Springhill campus.



One of the recent upgrades on campus has been the addition of entrance portals and signage, which act as gateways to USA’s campus.



Stokes joined the Beta, Delta, Epsilon, Gamma and Greek housing facilities to give more students the option of living on campus.

Home, in fact, has become much more a part of the USA learning experience for more and more students, as evidenced by the construction of Stokes Hall, which was dedicated in the spring of 2012. The four-story residence hall has 330 beds and a number of enhanced learning features, including classroom space and group study areas. It also includes a faculty member living in the hall as part of the living-learning community concept.

Stokes joined the Beta, Delta, Epsilon, Gamma and Greek housing facilities to give even more students the option of living on campus. In the fall of 2011, a record 3,100 students chose to do just that.

Stokes Hall has become the new model for on-campus residence hall construction. Another residence hall, slated to open in fall 2013, will include the same architectural details and the emphasis on living-learning communities popularized at Stokes.

The atmosphere of the campus extends beyond landscaping and the appearance of buildings.

Operating on the premise that virtually every student today is armed with a laptop, smartphone, tablet or some combination of the three, the campus has been blanketed with its own Wi-Fi system for several years. In addition



Stokes Hall, which has 330 beds along with classroom space and group study areas, has become a model for on-campus residence hall construction.

to Internet access, students and faculty have been able to conduct school business — such as signing up for classes and checking grades — on USA’s intranet system, PAWS (Personal Access Web System).

The distance-learning portion of the University’s curriculum offers more than 250 online courses per semester, as well as a growing number of fully online degrees and upper-division programs. All of the online offerings allow students to determine their own best

environment for learning, whether it’s under a tree on a sunny day, sipping coffee at USA’s Java City or at home late at night. Even on-campus students enjoy taking some classes online, in order to allow them flexibility for extracurricular activities or part-time work.

Whether a student is in one of USA’s buildings or working in a virtual classroom, the University is creating a learning community that enhances that student’s ability to learn.



The Health Sciences Building, left, was completed in 2009 and brought the colleges of Allied Health Professions and Nursing under one roof. Improvements to the University include technological upgrades, such as completion of the College of Medicine’s Active Learning Center, below left, and on-campus amenities such as a new dining hall that features rotating specials, pasta, sandwiches and a salad bar, below right.



Today's USA Students Enjoy the 'Complete College Experience'



The addition of football and marching band in 2009 energized campus life, adding to an already rich college experience at the University.

When graduates from the early years of the University of South Alabama return to campus, they have many reactions to what they see, feel and hear. None are more pronounced than those related to the evolution of the quality of student life.

“So much has been built since I was there,” said Don Davis, long-time Mobile County probate judge and a member of the USA class of 1978. “It’s a completely different campus.”

“I loved my college experience, but I do wish we would have had some of the things they have now. I’m certainly happy for the students who attend USA today and have all of these wonderful facilities.”

Student life at USA has been enriched in myriad ways in recent years. Enhancements can be seen across campus, from the Mitchell Center arena to the Meisler Hall student services building to a gleaming new state-of-

the-art recreation center. Then there’s the new Division I football team and the Jaguar marching band, new residence halls, and a beautiful new dining facility and food court ... the list goes on and on.

Today’s USA students are enjoying unprecedented quality of life outside the classroom. There have never been more reasons for students to live, work and play on campus.

“Research shows that if you keep students on campus, they do better academically, and they are more likely to graduate,” said Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. John W. Smith.

“The more reasons students find to stay on campus and enjoy the complete college experience, the closer they will identify as members of the University of South Alabama family, first as students and then as alumni.”

— Karen Edwards, USA National Alumni Association executive director

“Clearly, South Alabama has been willing to invest in its student life,” said Colin Al-Greene, the Student Government Association president for 2011-12. “That makes the students feel proud of the school.”

“The same is true of the football team and marching band, which began in the fall of 2009,” he said. “They have really created a sense of unity and pride on campus.”

In the past decade or so, USA students have seen major improvements of intramural facilities where thousands each year participate in a wide range of activities. The crown jewel of USA’s enhanced campus life is the 116,000-square-foot Student Recreation Center, which houses aerobics rooms; areas for cardio and weight training; indoor courts for basketball, soccer and racquetball; an indoor track; indoor and outdoor pools; saunas; a rock-climbing wall; and a smoothie bar.

Davis said it is gratifying that even as the campus has changed physically, much of what he knew as a student has continued to thrive and grow at the University, from intramural sports to student government as well as various clubs and fraternities and sororities.

Davis was a charter member of the Kappa Alpha order on campus. In those days, he said, Kappa Alpha rented a small house from the University. There was no fraternity row at that time. These days, there are 19 Greek letter organizations active at USA, and nine of them have houses on campus. Each Greek organization falls under one of three umbrella groups: the Interfraternity Council, the Panhellenic Council or the National Pan-Hellenic Council.

And there are nearly 200 other student organizations, from academic honor societies to faith-based groups



Coeds arriving for classes in fall 1966 share the load as they become among the first dormitory students on the University’s campus. University officials broke ground for Alpha dormitory on Oct. 28, 1965. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.



While at the University of South Alabama, students can participate in a wide range of classroom and extracurricular activities, including dramatic performances, above, and homecoming activities, below.

such as Jags for Christ and the Wesley Foundation, to professional organizations such as the Society of Physics Students, to special-interest groups, including the Cricket Club and the Bass Fishing Club.

As students are attracted to a vibrant and full life on campus, the University has been able to recruit more students from beyond the immediate area and out of state, leading to greater demand for student housing. Enhancements to campus dining and student housing — more than 3,000 students now live on campus — have forever changed the campus atmosphere.

The recent construction of Stokes Hall, which houses 330 students, reflects increasing demand for USA's campus life. Dedicated in 2012, Stokes includes an apartment for a faculty member in residence and incorporates "learning communities" that group together students with common interests or areas of study. Other on-campus housing options include the Beta/Gamma, Delta, and Epsilon dormitories, the Greek halls and The Grove, a privately funded apartment complex that houses as many as 1,000 students.

"Clearly, South Alabama has been willing to invest in its student life."

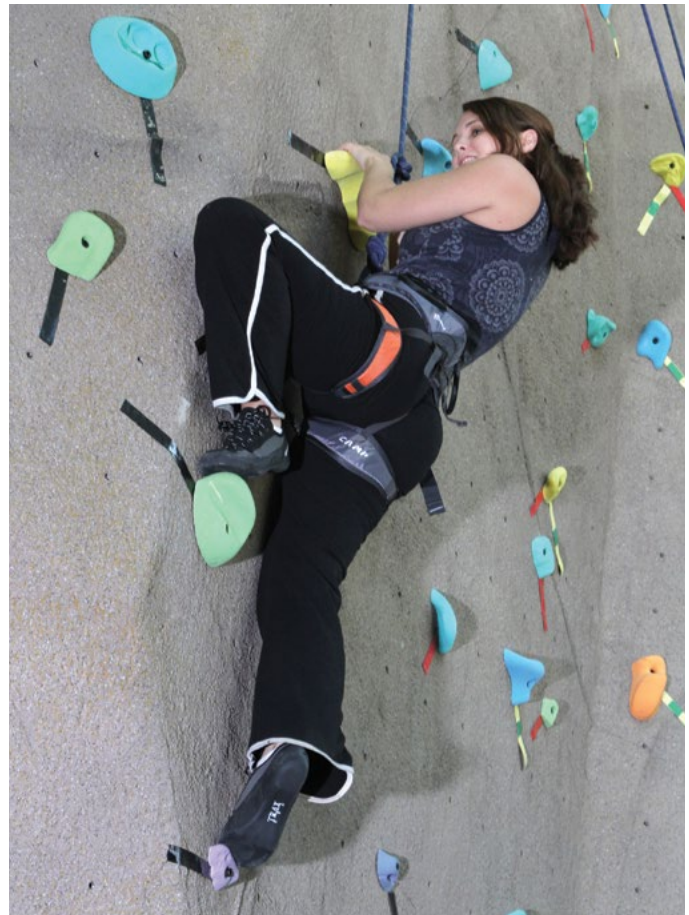
— Colin Al-Greene, 2011-12 SGA president



“The improved quality of campus life will continue to attract more students,” Smith said, “and that will bring more demand for student housing. We don’t want to get ahead of demand, but I believe we’ll be adding 800 to 1,000 more rooms in the next several years.”

Smith was a driving force behind the new 20,000-square-foot dining facility, which opened in the fall of 2010, and the accompanying meal plan. He said parents can now be assured that their children are being well-fed, and that enhances recruitment. Plus, like so many of the recent improvements, the food court and dining facility promote student interaction with faculty members. “I’ve never had a bad meal there,” Smith noted.

“The more reasons students find to stay on campus and enjoy the complete college experience, the closer they will identify as members of the University of South Alabama family, first as students and then as alumni,” said Karen Edwards, USA class of 1980 and executive director of the USA National Alumni Association. “And that’s a very good thing.”



Through the years, USA has offered students a vibrant student life. Above, a student climbs the three-story rock wall at the new Student Recreation Center. Below, fraternity members participate in a bed race in the 1980s. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.



From Stanky to Football Success, USA Athletics Delivers Defining Moments



Jeff Hodge hits the game-winning shot against Alabama in the 1989 NCAA Tournament to give the Jaguars an 86-84 victory. It was the first NCAA Tournament win in school history. Photo courtesy of Greg Calahan.

Mel Lucas knew what he had to accomplish when he became the University of South Alabama's first athletics director in 1965.

"I was supposed to have a well-rounded athletic program that would be recognized," Lucas said. "That's what we were looking for."

Fifty years later, that's what USA has achieved.

South Alabama sports are nationally recognized, a program full of postseason berths and memorable games and populated by professional postseason heroes.

It's a history that includes the creation of a regional conference that has earned national respect in nearly every sport.

Under Lucas' direction, South Alabama became a charter member of the Sun Belt Conference in 1976 and remains the only original member in a conference that now includes members in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas.

That South Alabama would have athletics was never in question. Lucas, who also coached the first baseball team,

said then-University President Fred Whiddon made it known that the University only was whole if sports were included.

"I think that even philosophers believe that you've got to have a sound mind and a sound body," Lucas said. "It was always a thing to have a respectable athletic program, which I think we've had."

To that end, South Alabama's athletics history is highlighted not only by singular moments, but by the people who helped make those moments happen.

And there were plenty of both under Eddie Stanky. In 14 years as head baseball coach, the former major league player and manager never had a losing season, compiling an impressive 488-195-2 record that included five NCAA postseason berths.

Stanky gave the city of Mobile a program to be proud of even in its infancy.

“Mobile took a lot of pride in the program and the University itself. The baseball program was kind of the flagship as far as athletics are concerned.”

— Steve Kittrell, former USA baseball coach

“I think it meant a lot to Mobile,” said Steve Kittrell, who played for both Lucas and Stanky before coaching at his alma mater for 28 seasons. “Mobile took a lot of pride in the program and the University itself. The baseball program was kind of the flagship as far as athletics are concerned.”

Kittrell continued what Stanky started, taking over for his mentor in 1984. Six times his Jaguars were within one game of reaching the College World Series.

More than 20 former South Alabama players have made it to Major League Baseball — including Jon Lieber, Juan Pierre and Marlon Anderson — and two have become World Series heroes.

Luis Gonzalez and David Freese share bottom-of-the-ninth World Series hits that took them from everyday players to well-known athletes.

In Game 7 of the 2001 World Series, Gonzalez’s well-placed single brought home the championship-clinching run, handing Arizona its first World Series.

Ten years later, it was Freese’s turn. In Game 6 of the 2012 World Series, he extended then won the game with a late-inning triple and a home run.

The Cardinals went on to win the World Series, and Freese earned MVP honors.

But baseball is just one of the 17 sports in which the Jaguars compete.

The inception of the football program in 2007 gives South Alabama another sport, along with baseball, basketball, tennis, golf, softball, volleyball, track and field and soccer, in which to compete for championships.



Members of the 1972 Jaguar baseball team pose shortly after being ranked No. 1 in the national polls. USA’s baseball team has enjoyed significant success over the years and has sent numerous players to the professional ranks. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.



President Gordon Moulton flips the coin Sept. 5, 2009, before the start of the University's first football game. The Jaguars beat Hargrave (Va.) Military Academy 30-13 at Ladd-Peebles Stadium in Mobile.

“The next step is to regain our position as the premier athletic department in the Sun Belt Conference.”

— Dr. Joel Erdmann, USA director of athletics

However, one of the biggest events was not a championship game — it was the day USA finally got to play Alabama.

In 1989, the NCAA tournament selection committee forced the Crimson Tide into a first-round postseason matchup with the Jaguars. It was the first time the two teams would play each other.

To say the community of Mobile was excited would be an understatement.

“I was told that when that game was going on, there wasn't hardly anybody on the streets car-wise,” said Ronnie Arrow, South Alabama's longest-tenured

basketball coach, who retired in 2012. “Everybody was in watching the game. When we left to go to the game, there were just cars and people stacked up on the way to the airport to watch us leave.”

The game didn't disappoint.

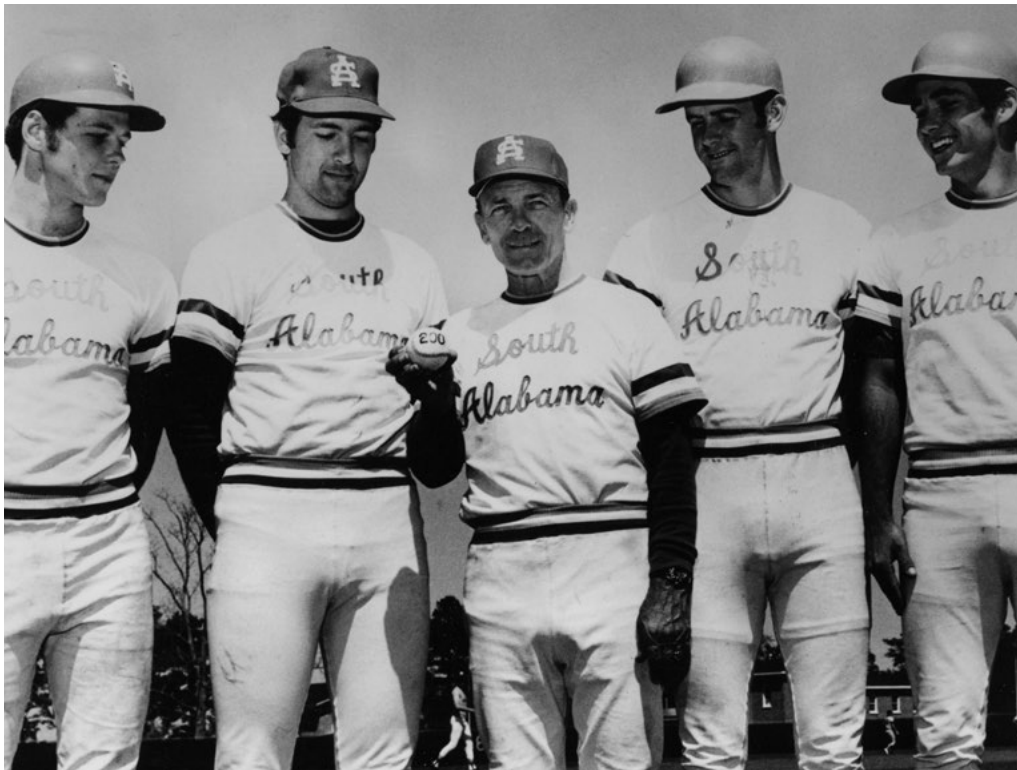
Alabama charged to a 19-point lead. But, little by little, South Alabama chipped away. With seconds remaining, Jeff Hodge's 3-point shot handed the Jaguars their first-ever NCAA tournament win.

“I can't believe that anybody in this city wouldn't tell you that it isn't the greatest thing that they have seen in any of the sports at South Alabama,” Arrow said.

Yet another memorable moment in South Alabama history came on Sept. 5, 2009, when the Jaguars played their first-ever football game, an event that drew an attendance of 26,783 at Ladd-Peebles Stadium.

Under the leadership of Dr. Joel Erdmann, the athletics department is poised to make more memorable moments, ones that include putting the University back atop the Sun Belt Conference.

“The next step is to regain our position as the premier athletic department in the Sun Belt Conference and in as many sports as possible, go as deep into the NCAA championship play as possible,” Erdmann said. “We will balance our efforts in sports with success in the classroom, while increasing our fan base and the visibility of the University as a whole.”



At left, Eddie Stanky, center, had an illustrious tenure at USA. In his 14 years as head baseball coach, the former major league player and manager won nearly 500 games and never had a losing season. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Below, the Jaguar softball program won the Sun Belt Conference tournament championship for the first time in school history in 2012, going on to win a pair of games in its first-ever NCAA Regional appearance. Photo courtesy of the Sun Belt Conference.



Great Moments in USA Athletics

From Eddie Stanky to Jaguar football, University athletics have provided countless memories while bringing together students, alumni and the community to support the Jags.



USA's football program was created in 2007 following a student support movement. Above, the team takes the field on Sept. 5, 2009, for the first game, when the Jags defeated Hargrave (Va.) Military Academy, 30-13.

Football

- Dec. 6, 2007 — The creation of the University of South Alabama's football program.
- Sept. 5, 2009 — Jaguars defeat Hargrave (Va.) Military Academy in the football program's first-ever game.
- Nov. 12, 2009 — USA football completes its first season undefeated.
- Sept. 17, 2011 — USA football takes another step in its progression to full-fledged NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision status with its first-ever match-up against another FBS opponent at North Carolina State.

Men's Basketball

- June 1972 — Andy Denny becomes first USA player to be drafted by NBA, taken in eighth round by Buffalo Braves.
- Feb. 17, 1979 — USA men's basketball defeats UNC-Charlotte to capture the program's first-ever Sun Belt Conference championship.
- June 1985 — Terry Catledge becomes first USA player to be drafted in the first round of NBA draft.
- March 17, 1989 — Jaguars pick up first and only NCAA Tournament win in school history to date with 86-84 victory over Alabama in Atlanta.
- March 3, 1998 — USA becomes first SBC school to win back-to-back conference tournament titles since 1984 with 62-59 win at Louisiana-Lafayette.
- March 2008 — Jaguar basketball sets school season record with 26 victories and earns at-large NCAA Tournament berth.

Women's Basketball

- 1986-87 — The Lady Jags become the first team in the program's history to gain a berth in the NCAA Tournament and win the Sun Belt Conference championship.
- 1989-90 — Adrian Vickers of the USA women's basketball team ends her career as the all-time leading scorer in school and Sun Belt Conference history.
- Feb. 23, 2004 — Lady Jag basketball clinches back-to-back Sun Belt Conference titles.
- Feb. 4, 2012 — Rick Pietri earns 200th career victory after leading USA to its first-ever victory at Western Kentucky.



Baseball

- 1971 — Glenn Borgmann becomes the first Jaguar All-American after hitting .471 — a single-season record that still stands.
- 1972 — USA enjoys No. 1 national ranking, a feat it repeated in 1975.
- 1975 — South Alabama sets a school record with 52 victories.
- Feb. 10, 1983 — Eddie Stanky retires as head coach at South Alabama.
- 1984 — Lance Johnson leads the NCAA and sets a school season record with 89 stolen bases.
- 1988 — Luis Gonzalez sets a single-season school record with 80 RBI. He would go on in 2001 to help the Arizona Diamondbacks capture the first World Series title in franchise history with a Game 7 walk-off single.
- May 1992 — After leading the Sun Belt with a 2.04 earned-run average and 157 strikeouts, Jon Lieber is selected the league's Player of the Year.
- May 14, 1998 — Jason Norton sets a Sun Belt Conference and school record with his 34th career win.
- Feb. 22, 2009 — Coach Steve Kittrell records his 1,000th career victory as a collegiate head coach. He retired in 2011.



Above, Adrian Vickers became the all-time leading scorer in school and Sun Belt Conference history.

Left, Steve Kittrell, at center, logged more than 1,000 career victories as the Jaguar baseball coach.



The Jaguar softball team won the Sun Belt Conference Tournament Championship in May 2012, going on to defeat Georgia Tech twice in the NCAA regional tournament.

Softball

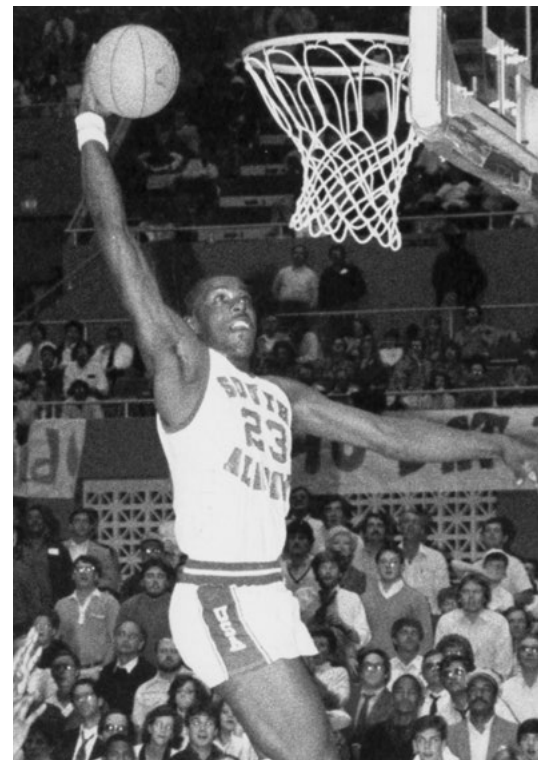
- April 10, 2009 — USA recorded its first series win over a nationally ranked opponent with a pair of victories against No. 19 Louisiana-Lafayette.
- May 2012 — Jags win the Sun Belt Tournament Championship and defeat Georgia Tech twice before falling to regional champ Alabama in the NCAA Tournament.

Cross Country/Track and Field

- Oct. 28, 1978 — Head coach Ed Kelly's men's squad wins its first-ever Sun Belt Conference Cross Country championship.
- Nov. 22, 1999 — David Kimani wins USA's first-ever NCAA national title, in the 10,000 meters.
- Feb. 5, 2000 — Shemeeka Hopkins becomes first USA female track student-athlete to qualify for NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships, competing in the 60-meter hurdle.
- June 11, 2006 — Competing in the 1,500 meters, Vincent Rono becomes first USA student-athlete to win an NCAA outdoor national championship.
- June 9, 2007 — Ajoke Odumosu advances to 400-meter hurdle finals at NCAA Championships.
- June 10, 2011 — Lindsay Schwartz earns second-team All-American honors at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

Volleyball

- 1982 — USA volleyball wins school-record 42 matches.
- Nov. 1988 — Marie Lirette is first Lady Jag to be named Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year.



Terry Catledge was the first USA player to be drafted in the first round of the NBA draft.

Men's Golf

- 1994 — Heath Slocum becomes the first golfer in school history to earn All-America honors. He went on in 2009 to win The Barclays — the first event of the PGA Tour's FedEx Cup Playoffs — and \$1.35 million.
- April 20, 1994 — The Jags win the first of three consecutive Sun Belt Conference championships.
- April 21, 2004 — Gareth Maybin picks up his fourth individual title of the season — and school-record eighth of his career — at the SBC Championships.

Women's Golf

- June 26, 1968 — Beth Barry becomes the first University of South Alabama women's golfer to compete in an NCAA Regional competition.
- April 16, 1997 — The Jaguars earn their first Sun Belt Conference championship.

Men's Tennis

- May 1994 — Jan Hermansson (singles) and Peter Kuhn and Clive Ullyett (doubles) are first USA tennis players to be named to All-America teams.
- May 13, 1995 — USA earns 4-1 victory over Texas to advance to national quarterfinals.
- May 2004 — Franticek Babej defeats fourth straight ranked opponent to reach NCAA singles semifinals and goes on to finish the season ranked No. 17.

Women's Tennis

- May 10, 1997 — Jags defeat No. 1 seed (and host) Vanderbilt 5-4 to extend school-record 18-match win streak and advance to Southeast Region final.
- May 24, 2000 — Martina Ondrejкова and Iva Pufferova advance to the semifinals of the NCAA doubles championship.
- April 27, 2003 — Jags defeat No. 71 Denver to win 11th straight SBC Tournament title.

Men's Soccer

- Nov. 3, 1994 — Roy Patton is selected the Sun Belt Conference men's soccer Coach of the Year for the fourth straight season.

Women's Soccer

- Nov. 11, 1997 — USA competes in its first-ever NCAA postseason match against UNC-Greensboro; South Alabama ends its best season in program history with an 18-3-1 record.
- Sept. 23, 2001 — Cindy Rainville scores two goals to beat Mississippi State, 2-1 in overtime, four days after the Jaguars defeated LSU.



David Kimani became the first USA student-athlete to win a national championship when he claimed the NCAA men's cross country title in 1999.

University Rallies to Support Jaguar Football and Marching Band



The University of South Alabama added intercollegiate football and marching band when students rallied behind the idea. The expansion continues a storied tradition of athletics at USA.

Gordon Moulton remembers the first question he was asked the day he became president of the University of South Alabama.

“When are you going to start football?’ I heard it on a regular basis,” recalled Moulton, who was named USA’s president in 1998.

Nearly 10 years later, the University answered that oft-asked question when the Board of Trustees in 2007 unanimously approved a proposal to bring football and marching band to USA.

A football program had long been talked about, even in the early days of the University. It became a reality with the backing of a growing student body, when more than 2,300 students signed a petition pledging their support

and their willingness to pay higher student fees to help fund the programs.

“This effort is really about our students and alumni and bringing them ever closer to the University,” Moulton said after football and band were approved. “We also believe this will strengthen our already close relationship with the community. These are our true objectives.”

Athletics Director Joel Erdmann said that objective has taken root. Visitors can’t walk around campus without seeing South Alabama apparel either on students or faculty. The impact on the University is tangible.

“This effort is really about our students and alumni and bringing them ever closer to the University. We also believe this will strengthen our already close relationship with the community.”

— Gordon Moulton, USA president

While USA has had successful sports programs, notably baseball and basketball, the addition of football gained much attention in a state that closely follows the sport.

“The creation of football has painted the University differently in a lot of people’s eyes,” Erdmann said.

Though the initial focus was on football, the addition of the band was just as important.

The experience at Ladd-Peebles Stadium, where game days take place, is enhanced by the USA Jaguar Marching Band, which adds to the atmosphere and energy with the fight song, alma mater and other songs. Prior to home games, the band and cheerleaders entertain tailgaters, and fans cheer as the team makes its way into the stadium painted with USA’s red, white and blue colors.



For Joey Jones, a native Mobilian, the idea of taking over as the first football coach was natural. When interviewing for the job with Moulton, Jones wanted to make sure USA was planning for a first-class program.

Jones became convinced, especially when he saw that he would begin the job with the benefit of a new, state-of-the-art fieldhouse featuring natural and artificial practice fields. Everything came together on Sept. 5, 2009, when a Ladd-Peebles Stadium crowd of more than 27,000 watched the historic first win of the Jaguar football team, the first of 19 straight wins stretching over three seasons.

“To see where it started four years ago makes it very gratifying to see how far it has come,” Jones said.



Above, the Jaguar Marching Band, led by Dr. Ward Miller, entertains spectators at football games and performs at other University functions.

Left, USA’s football program began strong, with 19 straight wins over three seasons.



Growing Alumni Ranks Remain Connected and Transform a Region



USA alumni have made an impact on the region, state and nation. More than 75,000 degrees have been awarded in the University's history.

The success of modern universities is demonstrated by many measures, but none more important than the quality and reputation of their graduates.

The University of South Alabama in its first 50 years has awarded 75,000 degrees, representing more than 60,000 individual alumni. These graduates have fanned out across the nation and world, enhancing the lives of millions of people along the Gulf Coast and beyond.

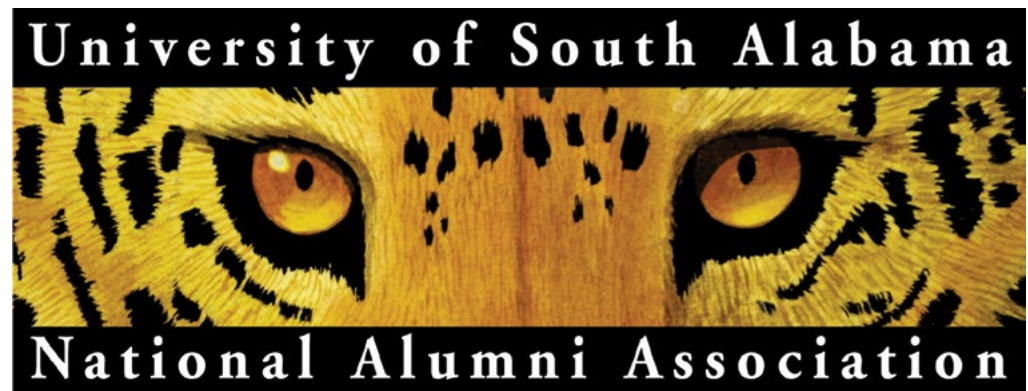
Among those graduates are:

- 18,200 teachers and school administrators, including 85 percent of those in Mobile and Baldwin counties.
- 11,200 business and accounting professionals.
- 9,400 nurses.
- 6,800 engineering and computer science professionals.
- 5,100 allied health professionals.
- 2,400 physicians, including one-third of Mobile-area doctors.
- Thousands of others in a variety of fields.

As USA has matured, its alumni have stayed connected to the University in ever-increasing numbers as evidenced through record

The University of South Alabama has awarded more than 75,000 degrees in its history, including:

- Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health Professions - 5,300
- College of Arts and Sciences - 17,700
- Mitchell College of Business - 11,400
- School of Computing - 2,200
- School of Continuing Education and Special Programs - 1,600
- College of Education - 18,400
- College of Engineering - 4,700
- College of Medicine - 2,400
- College of Nursing - 10,100



Through its USA National Alumni Association, the University fosters relationships with its alumni both along the Gulf Coast and nationwide.

philanthropic support and unprecedented involvement in the USA National Alumni Association. Formed in 1974, the association has chapters across the state and 15 outside the state, representing the expanding geographic reach and impact of the University's graduates.

"We've become a truly national association with board members from all over," said Dr. Joseph Busta Jr., vice president for development and alumni relations.

USA's first comprehensive fundraising campaign, which raised \$93.5 million, was completed in 2009 and served as a springboard to a larger and more successful Alumni Association. The Moulton Bell Tower and Alumni Plaza, constructed as part of the campaign and dedicated in 2010, represented the most significant alumni project in University history.

"We engaged a lot of alumni in these projects, further strengthening their relationship with their alma mater," Busta said.

Another way the University maintains contact with its alumni is through a glossy quarterly magazine, *Looking South*, which contains articles about campus happenings, sports, student activities and alumni success stories. Busta said it is all about keeping alumni tuned in to the growth and progress of the University.

"The more alumni have an ownership interest in their university, the greater impact they have on its growth and progress," Busta said. "When they are invested in staying in touch, they continue to be valuable members of the USA family, and the University is all the stronger."

Another demonstration of alumni commitment: Unlike 50 years ago, when USA began, a majority of USA Board of Trustees members today are alumni, a hallmark of most successful universities.



Alumni Hall, the renovated historic Toulmin House, offers a welcoming aspect to both students and graduates. After each commencement, the USA National Alumni Association hosts a reception for new graduates.

"The more alumni have an ownership interest in their university, the greater impact they have on its growth and progress."

— Dr. Joseph Busta Jr., vice president for development and alumni relations

USA College of Medicine Forever Enhances Region's Health Care



A charter class of 25 students, shown above, entered the University of South Alabama's College of Medicine in 1973. Today, the college receives more than 1,100 applicants each year and selects 74 students. For the names of the people in the above photo, see Page 153.

Almost from the moment the University of South Alabama accepted its first students in June 1964, its leaders began working toward the establishment of a medical school. Was that perhaps a bit ambitious?

“Extremely ambitious,” said Dr. Samuel J. Strada, the current dean of the University of South Alabama College of Medicine. “There are institutions much larger who tried to get medical schools for many years and have only recently gotten them. And others have not gotten them even yet.”

But USA had history on its side — and tremendous community support.

Alabama medical education got its start in Mobile. The Medical College of Alabama was founded in the city in 1859. It moved to Tuscaloosa in 1920, then to Birmingham in 1945. It is now the University of Alabama School of Medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

For Mobile, USA represented a second chance at a medical college. In May 1965, less than a year after USA opened, the Association of American Medical Colleges and the American Medical Association sent representatives to the University to assess the possibility of establishing a medical school. A survey team arrived in June 1966 and determined that Alabama did need a second medical school and that Mobile was the logical site.

In August 1966, Mobile Rep. Mylan Engel introduced an Alabama House resolution that would have given USA's trustees official blessing to proceed with planning for a medical school. The Legislature wouldn't go that far, but it did pass an amended resolution calling for a study of Alabama's medical education needs.

“This med school here is just phenomenal. I don’t think we could have anticipated what an enormously influential factor that school has become.”

— William L. Roberts, former Mobile legislator

Booz, Allen & Hamilton, a management consulting firm from Chicago, conducted the study. It recommended establishing two-year medical education programs in Mobile, Tuscaloosa and Huntsville, with the Mobile program eventually expanding into a four-year school.

“Eventually” was not what USA’s boosters had in mind. Ten days after the report was released, the USA Board of Trustees met in Gov. Lurleen Wallace’s office in Montgomery. The city of Mobile, Mobile County and the Mobile County Foundation for Higher Education each promised \$1.5 million for a medical school. The Mobile County Hospital Board said it would transfer Mobile General Hospital to the University for the training of doctors.

In the Legislature, the Mobile delegation argued that “Alabama needed family practitioners in rural areas,” said Robert Edington, then a member of the Alabama House of Representatives. Edington said state Sen. Pierre Pelham, a Harvard-trained lawyer known for his oratory

on the Senate floor, took the lead in making the case. Pelham came from Washington County, which is quite rural even today. “He was acutely aware of the need for family physicians in small towns,” Edington said. “So we really pressed that point.”

On Aug. 19, 1969, the Legislature approved a resolution providing “that the University of South Alabama forthwith begin planning of a medical school in Mobile.” Six months later, Gov. Albert Brewer announced that the state would add \$5.5 million to the \$4.5 million already committed locally for the school.

Dr. Fred Whiddon, the University president, achieved respect for the College of Medicine even before it began operating. For the search committee seeking a dean, he recruited some of the most renowned physicians in the country: surgeon and anti-smoking crusader Dr. Alton Ochsner of New Orleans; Dr. Arthur Richardson, dean of medicine at Emory University; and heart surgeon Dr. Michael DeBaakey of Houston. The committee chose



The College of Medicine has produced more than 2,200 physicians, many of whom serve in the Mobile region.



Former Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace shakes hands with USA Student Government Association President John Tyson Jr., as President Fred Whiddon looks on, during a dedication ceremony for the new College of Medicine building on April 30, 1974. Tyson later became district attorney for Mobile County.

“There’s a substantial number of doctors in Mobile who are graduates of this medical school who may not have gone into medicine had it not been available right here.”

— Robert Edington, former Mobile legislator

Dr. Robert M. Bucher, an administrator at the National Institutes of Health. Bucher, a thoracic surgeon, had been the medical school dean at Temple University.

In late 1970, the University acquired Mobile General Hospital for \$10. The next year, Whiddon announced plans for construction of three other medical buildings, and the Legislature approved a \$10 million bond issue for improvements.

William L. Roberts represented Mobile in the Alabama House of Representatives at the time. He said the idea

of a medical school enjoyed popular support across south Alabama. “It wasn’t a difficult vote,” he said. “The people demanded it.”

In January 1973, the charter class of 25 students entered the University of South Alabama College of Medicine. Today, the college selects 74 new students a year from more than 1,100 applicants. It has produced more than 2,200 physicians, many of whom are serving in the Mobile community and across Alabama — in everything from cutting-edge treatment and research to, yes, family practice in small towns.

“The USA College of Medicine certainly increased the number of doctors,” said Edington, “and there’s a substantial number of doctors in Mobile who are graduates of this medical school who may not have gone into medicine had it not been available right here.”

The College of Medicine has also paid dividends by providing a platform for cutting-edge medical research by USA faculty and for enhancement of

clinical care in the region through the USA Medical Center, USA Children’s & Women’s Hospital and the USA Mitchell Cancer Institute.

Roberts has worked closely with USA medical graduates in his long-term nursing and rehabilitation business. “This med school here is just phenomenal,” he said. “I don’t think we could have anticipated what an enormously influential factor that school has become.”



USA College of Medicine students work closely with professors and hospital staff on their journey to become the next generation of physicians. At left, Dr. Errol Crook, far right, makes hospital rounds with medical school students. Below left, a medical school student operates a video camera during a laparoscopic procedure. Below right, students learn how to tie surgical knots from a resident physician.



USA Medical Center Provides Critical and Specialized Care to Region



USA Medical Center, the only Level I trauma center in the region, is a major referral facility for trauma, burns, stroke, cardiovascular disease and sickle cell disease. The hospital receives more than 120,000 patient visits each year.

The University of South Alabama Medical Center, a vital provider of specialized health care services for the upper Gulf Coast region, originated as a way of fulfilling two needs.

As the 1970s began, the University had just received legislative authorization to create a medical school. It needed a hospital where medical students could train.

And Mobile County needed help in treating uninsured patients. In 1966, Mobile General Hospital had moved from its downtown site to a gleaming new high-rise facility on Fillingim Street. But chronic budget problems plagued daily operations. Several floors of the building remained unfinished.

At the end of 1970, the Mobile County Hospital Board transferred Mobile General Hospital to the University, provided that the University establish a college of medicine and treat uninsured and economically disadvantaged patients.

“Since then, we have moved from just a city general hospital to a hospital that offers an array of sophisticated and unique programs,” said Stan Hammack, USA vice president of health systems. “There’s not anything like it within 300 miles.”

The strength of USA’s College of Medicine and its physicians has been the foundation for the complexity and diversity of medical offerings through the USA Medical Center.

The USA Medical Center is the only Level I trauma center in the region, reflecting its ability to handle the most complex injuries. It has the region’s only burn treatment center and epilepsy monitoring unit. It’s a major referral facility in southern Alabama, southeast Mississippi, and part of northwest Florida for trauma,

burns, stroke, cardiovascular disease and sickle cell disease. It provides teleradiology services to other hospitals in five states. Around it has grown a campus with a variety of outpatient care services.

USAMC receives 126,000 patient visits each year, 90,000 of them for outpatient care and 30,000 for emergency care. It admits 6,000 people a year.

Of the nation's 3,200 hospitals, the Medical Center ranks 44th in "acuity index," which measures the severity of patients' illnesses. Of 100 teaching hospitals, it ranks third. Because it treats the sickest of the sick, it provides invaluable training and research experiences — not only for the young physicians of the USA College of Medicine, but also for nurses through the College of Nursing, and for therapists, technicians, physician assistants and other caregivers through the Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health Professions.

The unique and sophisticated programs make the USA Medical Center a lifesaving resource for the most ill and severely injured.

"We've had the richest, most famous people from this community at that hospital," said Steve Simmons, former Medical Center administrator, "and we've had those people who have nothing."

For all, the Medical Center meets needs. As it always has.



Since its inception, USA Medical Center has evolved into a hospital that offers specialized care using the latest technology.



The University of South Alabama took over Mobile General Hospital in the early 1970s, giving the University a place to train physicians and the community first-class treatment and care. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.



USA Children's & Women's Hospital: Unique Care for Unique Patients



The University of South Alabama Children's & Women's Hospital began in 1983 at USA Medical Center before moving into its own building in 1990. The hospital includes the area's only Level III neonatal intensive care unit, which treats about 1,000 babies each year.

For many people living along the Alabama Gulf Coast, the impact of the University of South Alabama begins at an early age.

In fact, two out of every five babies who come into the world in Mobile County make their debut at USA Children's & Women's Hospital. In addition to being the birthplace of more than 2,800 babies each year, this special hospital is so much more.

USA Children's & Women's Hospital is the only hospital of its kind in the upper Gulf Coast region and one of fewer than 10 free-standing hospitals nationwide dedicated specifically to the health care needs of children and women. It draws strength from being a vital part of the USA Health System, which not only provides state-of-the-art health care made possible through an academic health system, but also trains the physicians, nurses and health care professionals of tomorrow.

The hospital began in 1983 as a "hospital within a hospital" occupying two floors of the USA Medical Center. Like a young family that kept growing,

Children's & Women's soon outgrew its first home and in 1990 relocated some services to its current location off Spring Hill Avenue in midtown Mobile.

Seven years later, in 1997, all the hospital's patient care was brought together on its beautiful campus, which was further enhanced in 2001 with the creation of the Geri Moulton Children's Park. The park is home to more than 50 life-size bronze sculptures depicting children and families, capturing the spirit of hope and optimism the hospital's patients display. It is a place of refuge for the children, women and families who visit Children's & Women's for care. The park honors the wife of USA President Gordon Moulton for her substantial volunteer efforts to raise the private gifts to make the park a reality.

A recent 195,000-square-foot expansion has nearly doubled the hospital's size. The \$72.6 million expansion features more space for the hospital's neonatal and

pediatric intensive care units, additional operating rooms and unusually large patient rooms to better accommodate visitors and families. Vital support services such as an enlarged cafeteria and kitchen, along with space for professional teaching and community education, are also included in the five-level expansion.

In addition to being Mobile's leader in births, the hospital also has the area's only Level III neonatal intensive care unit and a pediatric intensive care unit, each uniquely equipped and staffed to provide the region's most advanced care for premature, critically ill and critically injured children. The NICU treats some 1,000 babies each year, with 20 percent of the babies coming from other hospitals in the region.

USA Children's & Women's Hospital also features the award-winning USS Hope infusion therapy center for pediatric cancer and sickle cell treatment, along with a high-risk obstetrical unit and a labor and delivery unit that are regional referral centers. With the new daVinci Si surgical suite, Children's & Women's now offers robotic surgical options for women and children. In addition, the hospital's Mapp Child & Family Life Program addresses developmental, physical and emotional needs of young patients, and includes the unique Class Act school that teaches nearly 1,000 hospitalized children in grades K-12 every year. The Imaging Center features an open MRI for patients of all sizes and a 320-slice CT scanner with customized children's features. Mammography patients receive their results from the reading radiologist before they leave.

"At USA Children's & Women's Hospital, we know that children and women have health care needs unlike anyone else," said Owen Bailey, USA Children's & Women's Hospital administrator. "That's why we offer care that is unique in our community."



USA Children's & Women's Hospital recently completed a \$72.6 million expansion that nearly doubled the hospital's size.



"We offer care that is unique in our community."

— Owen Bailey,
USA Children's & Women's
Hospital administrator

Pet Therapy, part of the Mapp Child and Family Life Program at USA Children's & Women's Hospital, helps children keep their minds off being in the hospital, reduces the need for pain medication and speeds up recovery time.

USA Mitchell Cancer Institute Offers Advanced Treatment and Hope



USA Mitchell Cancer Institute, the first academic cancer research institute in the region, employs more than 300 researchers, physicians and health care professionals while treating more than 6,000 cancer patients a year. At left is Dr. Rodney Rocconi, associate professor and gynecologic oncologist.

The “Window of Hope,” a floor-to-ceiling glass wall, is the only thing that separates patient waiting areas from the busy research laboratories of the University of South Alabama Mitchell Cancer Institute. Patients arriving for treatment see a heartening view of scientists exploring new treatments and cures.

Inspiration flows the other way, too. Researchers see the people who may ultimately benefit from their work. “We wanted them to know every day that they’re working in a special place where people are being treated,” said Dr. Michael R. Boyd, the institute’s director.

The USA Mitchell Cancer Institute provides exceptional patient care through innovative treatment and basic and clinical research. Together with the entire USA Health System, the USA Mitchell Cancer Institute focuses on discovery and development of new and more effective treatments for cancer, and then making this care available to local citizens, who previously would have to travel great distances for treatment at a university-based cancer research center.

The USA Mitchell Cancer Institute is the first academic cancer research institute in the upper Gulf Coast region and was championed by USA President Gordon Moulton shortly after he became the University’s second president in 1998. The institute was initiated in 2000, and is funded through philanthropic gifts; support from the state of Alabama, the city of Mobile and Mobile County; federal appropriations; competitive contracts and grants; tobacco settlement funds; and the USA Foundation. The USA Mitchell Cancer Institute is the largest single research endeavor in the history of the University of South Alabama, with a total investment of more than \$135 million.

The USA Mitchell Cancer Institute employs more than 300 researchers, physicians and health care professionals and treats more than 6,000 individual cancer patients a year.

“The USA Mitchell Cancer Institute is one of the most important initiatives in the history of the University of South Alabama, and perhaps in the health care of the Gulf Coast region,” Moulton said.

The USA Mitchell Cancer Institute has been greatly enhanced by the philanthropic support of the Mitchell family of Mobile — brothers Mayer and Abraham and Mayer’s wife, Arlene. In 2006, the family made a \$22 million gift to USA to support the institute, the largest gift in the University’s history.

The institute became a reality in 2002 with the hiring of Boyd, its first director, a top researcher at the National Cancer Institute and the holder of both M.D. and Ph.D. degrees. In 2008, the institute moved into its new ultra-modern 125,000-square-foot home just off Spring Hill

Avenue, which houses the latest in cancer treatment technology.

Today, the institute employs more than 300 researchers, physicians and health care professionals and treats more than 6,000 individual cancer patients a year, a number that is growing each day. In addition to improving cancer care, the institute stimulates the growth of a strong regional economy built on biomedicine and biotechnology.

As the USA Mitchell Cancer Institute enters its second decade, the vision of its founders is becoming a reality. Gulf Coast citizens facing cancer are benefiting from state-of-the-art care, close to home, and are living longer, healthier lives.



The success of the USA Mitchell Cancer Institute is a result of federal, state and local funding; patient treatment revenues; research contracts and grants; and vital private philanthropy. Clockwise, from top left, the USA Mitchell Cancer Institute moved into its 125,000-square-foot home in 2008; President Gordon Moulton and his wife, Geri, donated \$3 million toward research and a cure for cancer through the establishment of the Geri and Gordon Moulton Research Fund; Mayer, Arlene and Abraham Mitchell made a \$22 million gift to the institute; and Dr. Michael R. Boyd, Abraham Mitchell chairman and director of the USA Mitchell Cancer Institute, and his wife, Ginni, made a \$2 million gift to launch an unrestricted research endowment.



Campaign USA Promises Widespread Impact and Surpasses Goal



President Gordon Moulton, left, stands with Mayer, Arlene and Abraham Mitchell at the 2006 announcement of the University of South Alabama's first fundraising campaign. The effort kicked off with a \$22 million commitment from the Mitchell family.

Launched officially in 2006, Campaign USA proudly demonstrated with its one-word slogan — Leadership — what the University of South Alabama itself had quietly delivered throughout the region for more than four decades.

USA's first comprehensive fundraising effort set out on its drive of \$75 million with unknown potential. Yet, the quest soon found a wellspring of enthusiasm among alumni and supporters, ultimately soaring \$20 million beyond its goal.

In a defining fashion, the hugely successful effort advanced the University in its missions of teaching, research, service and health care, enriching across USA's entire spectrum from its academic colleges and schools to its hospitals, athletic programs, libraries and campuses.

James A. "Jim" Yance, a 1970 alumnus, a USA trustee and a top Mobile trial lawyer, led the Campaign USA team during the three-year push.

"Of the University of South Alabama's many contributions to society, none has been more important and profound than improving the lives of our individual citizens," Yance said at the end of the campaign. "Any investment toward enhancing USA's leadership

"Of the University of South Alabama's many contributions to society, none has been more important and profound than improving the lives of our individual citizens."

— James A. "Jim" Yance,
USA trustee chairman

will pay substantial dividends and lead to the betterment of our community.”

Selected by USA President Gordon Moulton in 2002 as the University’s first vice president for development and alumni relations, Dr. Joseph F. Busta Jr. said the campaign set the stage for a new era of growth and opportunity, deepening and extending USA’s tradition of leadership throughout the region.

The first public announcement of Campaign USA gave every air of eventual success, with more than 200 community and University leaders gathering for a kickoff event in spring 2006, where they learned that — led by a \$22 million commitment from the family of Arlene, Mayer and Abraham Mitchell — nearly half of the goal, or \$36 million, had already been raised during an initial two-year “quiet phase” of the campaign.



Campaign USA easily surpassed its \$75 million goal, eventually reaching \$93.5 million. Standing with President Gordon Moulton is USA trustee Jim Yance, who was chairman of the fundraising effort.

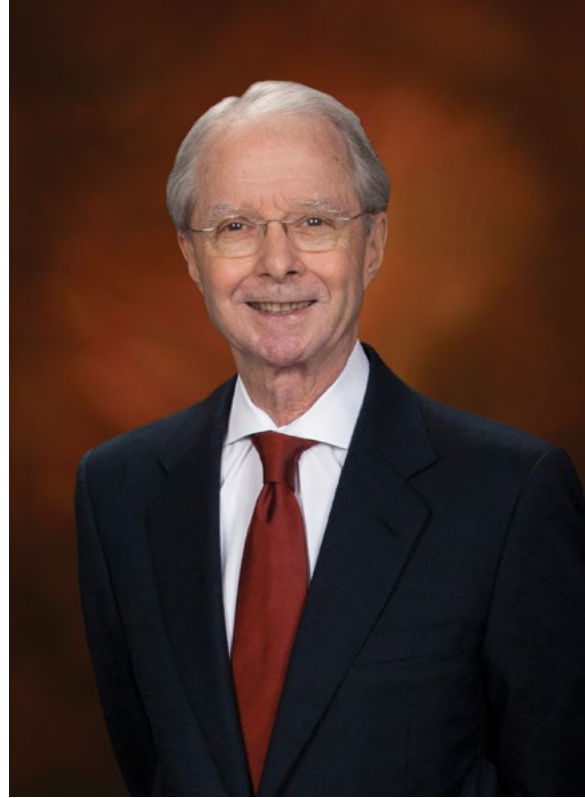
In March 2009, Campaign USA cleared its \$75 million goal well ahead of schedule, and the total would eventually reach \$93.5 million, representing more than 22,000 donors.

Monies from Campaign USA have been transformational for the University and the people it serves. Gifts from the campaign will perpetually support undergraduate and graduate scholarships, professorships, classroom and laboratory equipment, health care innovations, athletics, and building and capital improvements. And a long-cherished wish of USA alumni was fulfilled through the Moulton Tower and Alumni Plaza, which can be seen for miles in any direction.



More than 22,000 donors gave money to Campaign USA, which raised funds for scholarships, professorships, classroom and laboratory equipment, health care innovations, athletics, and building and capital improvements.

Mitchell Family Philanthropy and Involvement Transform USA



Portraits of Arlene and Mayer Mitchell and Abraham Mitchell hang in the lobby of the University of South Alabama Mitchell Cancer Institute to perpetually recognize the family's support of the USAMCI, as well as numerous other endeavors touching all aspects of the University.

The late Mobile businessman Mayer Mitchell had a favorite Jewish proverb: “When you give when you are dead, it is lead; when you give when you are living, it is gold.”

For Mitchell, along with his wife, Arlene, and brother, Abraham, the proverb has reflected a way of life. Long associated with business success, the Mitchell name is also stamped indelibly in the annals of philanthropy, with particular generosity toward the University of South Alabama.

To date, the Mitchells have given more than \$43 million to USA, the largest amount given to a single public university by a single family in the state's history. Mayer Mitchell served on the Board of Trustees, with Arlene succeeding him in 2007, while Abe has provided steady

and invaluable counsel on academic programs, especially in business and medicine.

Although not alumni, the Mitchells adopted the University of South Alabama as their own, giving freely of their time, their counsel and their treasure, including a \$22 million gift to support USA's Mitchell Cancer Institute and Campaign USA, which ultimately raised \$93.5 million for the University. The Mitchells have been at the forefront of turning the University into the valuable asset that it has become to Mobile and the Gulf Coast.

“I cannot imagine one family having more of an impact on the growth and progress of a university than the Mitchells — Arlene, Mayer and Abe.”

— Gordon Moulton, USA president

Mitchell family giving has touched all aspects of the University of South Alabama. The family has provided \$10 million for the Mitchell College of Business, helped fund the Mitchell Center arena, provided substantial faculty and student support, and funded numerous athletic enhancements. The Abraham Mitchell Scholarship Program is USA's largest privately funded academic scholarship program.

Avid basketball fans, the Mitchells bestowed more than \$1 million to ensure the completion of the Mitchell Center, which celebrated its opening in May 1999. The family then commissioned Sam Nettles, in 2001, to construct a bronze statue of a jaguar, the school's mascot, which stands outside the arena's north entrance.

Most recently, Arlene Mitchell gave \$1.7 million for a da Vinci Si robotic surgery system for USA Children's & Women's Hospital and made one of the largest contributions in the history of Jaguar athletics through the creation of the Mayer Mitchell Quarterback Endowment.

"I cannot imagine one family having more of an impact on the growth and progress of a university than the Mitchells — Arlene, Mayer and Abe. Through their philanthropic support and their keen interest, they



In 2001, the Mitchell family commissioned the bronze jaguar that sits in front of the Mitchell Center, which they endowed in 1999. The family's total giving to the University exceeds \$43 million.

have made an indelible positive impact on the future of our community and region," said USA President Gordon Moulton. "The University of South Alabama is fortunate to have the support of this generous family."

"We all love the University of South Alabama, and it was such an important part of Mayer's life," Arlene Mitchell said.

Abe Mitchell sums up his philanthropy to USA as one of the most satisfying aspects of his life.

"I have received far more than I have given," he said.



The USA Mitchell Cancer Institute was a long-held dream of Mayer Mitchell, who fought cancer throughout his adult life. Shown here at a topping-out ceremony for the building on Spring Hill Avenue are, from left, Mayer and Arlene Mitchell, and Abraham Mitchell.

Gerri Moulton Children's Park: A Place of Joy, Respite and Tranquility



Gerri Moulton worked for more than a decade to secure donors and sculptures for a children's park between Spring Hill Avenue and the University of South Alabama Children's & Women's Hospital. The park was later named Gerri Moulton Children's Park in her honor.

Two boys hang from monkey bars. A girl makes her first ballet step. A group of children poses for a photo, while six others play tug-of-war.

Such iconic bronze sculptures dot the well-maintained Gerri Moulton Children's Park, offering nature and art — two ingredients for helping people heal — to those who stroll along the calming grounds.

The 7-acre park graces the road leading from Spring Hill Avenue to the University of South Alabama Children's & Women's Hospital and the USA Mitchell Cancer Institute.

The park offers both a place of joy and celebration for those experiencing the miracle of birth, but also a place of comfort for families and health care professionals coping with the challenges of illness.

The sculptures, more than 50 in all, convey a sense of whimsy and joy, and seriousness and poignancy, too.



Gerri Moulton Children's Park is on 7 acres and includes more than 50 donated bronze sculptures created by celebrated artists.

The park, created in 2001, is a gift from the University of South Alabama to the people of Mobile. It was made possible by a wide range of supporters, including hospital employees, friends of the University, medical professionals and the families of children cared for at the hospital.

USA's Board of Trustees named the park in honor of Geri Moulton, wife of USA President Gordon Moulton, who took up the park as a personal cause and worked tirelessly to secure the many donations of sculpture to make it possible.

“We are truly grateful for the many donors whose support enabled us to establish the park as a place of hope — not only for our young patients and their families but for the entire community,” Geri Moulton said.

Paved paths wind through the park, home to ponds, pocket gardens and massive oak trees more than 200 years old. The sculptures are scattered throughout the rolling land. Benches give people places to sit and reflect.

There's lighthearted art, like a fountain fed by “Three Ribbits” (three frogs), “Gator Geyser” (an alligator), and “Baby Trumpeter” (a small elephant). Other sculptures show a boy flying an airplane, children in a homemade race car, a barefoot girl running carefree and a mother reading to children.

The scenes capture moments we all may have enjoyed as children and as adults. Other sculptures, dedicated in memory of children who have passed away, hint at the serious and sometimes sobering nature of medicine.

One sculpture depicts a child riding in a car with wings. The plaque captures the park's essence: “Dedicated to all USA Children's & Women's Hospital employees who contribute to the miracles occurring here, and to our patients who daily inspire us to improve their lives.”



The park, created in 2001, is a gift from the University of South Alabama to the people of Mobile.



The setting at Geri Moulton Children's Park, with lush green landscaping and sculptures, offers a place of joy and solace for patients, families and health care professionals. The park opened in 2001.

Moulton Tower Arrives as an ‘Enduring Symbol’ of USA Spirit



Moulton Tower and Alumni Plaza has become a campus landmark and a gathering place for events. The tower, named in honor of President Gordon Moulton and his wife, Geri, was funded through contributions and dedicated in 2010.

Picture a bucolic college campus setting with students strolling landscaped grounds as bells chime from an impressive tower.

After years of planning, fundraising and hard work by countless University of South Alabama alumni and supporters, a campus landmark emerged at USA.

On Oct. 8, 2010, more than 3,000 USA students, alumni, friends and supporters attended the dedication of the Moulton Tower and Alumni Plaza, located between Alumni Hall and the Mitchell Center.

The 140-foot-high brick and stone Gordon and Geri Moulton Bell Tower houses an electronic carillon as well as four bronze bells, ranging in size from 600 pounds to more than a ton.

The complex features seating for small and large events, as well as an amphitheater, two arbors, an alumni plaza and Walls of Honor with the names of the 1,300 donors to the project.



Gordon and Geri Moulton at the October 2010 dedication of the belltower named in their honor.

“This tower is a permanent reminder of the vital role the alumni play in the university community and family,” Alexis Atkins, a member of the Class of 1997 and president of the USA National Alumni Association, said at the dedication. “The nature of this project speaks to the community effort of the alumni association. You are the ones who made this happen and deserve the credit. This landmark represents USA’s honored past and most cherished ambitions. It will become our symbol.” Kimberly Proctor, then-president of the Student Government Association, said, “Each day, these bells will mark the moments of our lives.”

“I see a number of teaching moments all around me,” said Dr. Jim Connors, chairman of the Faculty Senate. “I see a beautiful setting for outdoor concerts, for poetry readings, oratory and debate, the exchange of ideas.”

The Moulton Tower and Alumni Plaza complex has become a place where performances occur, students meet and groups gather, and it is now the centerpiece of major university moments including homecoming and graduation.

The complex was the culmination of 15 years of planning and fundraising by the USA National Alumni Association.

“At first, the dream was that of simply a large campus landmark,” said Dr. Joseph F. Busta Jr., vice president for development and alumni relations, “but it evolved to be much more than a concrete and brick structure. The dream, now realized, is a special, nay, a sacred space.”

Even while the tower was still under construction, USA’s Board of Trustees in 2009 unanimously passed a resolution naming the tower “in appreciation and recognition of the service of President Gordon Moulton and Mrs. Geri Moulton,” calling it “fitting and appropriate to associate their names and legacy with the belltower — a pre-eminent landmark structure that will be an enduring symbol of the spirit of the University of South Alabama.”

Upon approval of the resolution naming the tower, President Moulton said, “Working with the students and faculty, and being able to see this institution evolve, have been very rewarding experiences for me. I couldn’t imagine anything better than having your colleagues say thank you in a way like this.

“It’s been a great journey, and Geri has been a part of it every step of the way,” he added. “She has been an immeasurable help to me.”

Geri Moulton said she was deeply touched by the board’s gesture.

“This is a statement about my husband’s life’s work,” she said. “The unyielding trust and support of the board propels him to do his best. The University of South Alabama has given him an opportunity to make a living, to make a life and to make a difference. What can possibly be better than that?”



Murals that depict teaching, research, health care and outreach were installed at the base of Moulton Tower in 2012. Jason Guynes, USA visual arts department chairman, created the panels with the help of students.

Moulton Tower Murals will Forever Tell the Story of USA



Jason Guynes, chairman of USA's visual arts department, created the murals by employing the same ancient and painstaking painting techniques used to create the European frescoes.

When the University of South Alabama in 2010 realized a longtime dream in completing the landmark Moulton Tower and Alumni Plaza, the architect designed in an added bonus — a vaulted masonry ceiling to serve as a perfect canvas for telling the University's story.

USA had to go no further than its own visual arts department to find an accomplished muralist with a national reputation for creating exquisite works of public art. After a three-year labor of love, the colorful murals of Moulton Tower are being heralded as an awe-inspiring representation of the heart, soul and mission of the University.

An idea conceived at the dining room table of USA President Gordon Moulton and his wife, Geri, in a conversation with Jason Guynes, chairman of USA's visual arts department, the work is a montage of people and moments — enthusiastic students, committed

faculty, dedicated researchers, skilled physicians, triumphant athletes, gleeful marching band musicians and cheerleaders, and proud alumni.

“Just as the wonderful vaulted frescoes of Europe so vividly tell the history of the people who created them, the murals communicate to the ages the life of the University of South Alabama through its teaching and faculty, student life, research, health care and service,” President Moulton said.

Guynes created the murals by employing the same ancient and painstaking painting techniques used to

create the European frescoes. Guynes and six students invested more than 4,000 hours creating the art in a campus warehouse.

“This has been a great teaching tool and a grand opportunity for our students to get firsthand experience on a highly complex and inspirational project,” Guynes said.

The 70 models who posed for the murals are real members of the University family — faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends — chosen not on the basis of their personal identity or contribution, but to represent the whole.

Beneath the massive 140-foot tower, each of the four triangular murals is 22 feet at its base and 12 feet from top to bottom, representing more than 500 square feet of imagery. The pieces are trimmed in classic art cameos that represent USA’s academic colleges.

The murals were made possible through a generous gift from Jim Barganier, principal architect of Moulton Tower and Alumni Plaza, with additional support from USA alumni and friends.



Student artists helped work on the murals as part of their classroom instruction.

“The murals project is a dream come true for an artist — a public art project that will have a lasting and far-reaching effect on the community,” Guynes said. “This work will stand the test of time, outliving us all for the enjoyment of many generations.”



The murals add to the beauty of Moulton Tower and Alumni Plaza. A dedication for the murals was held during homecoming in the fall of 2012.

Moulton Tower Murals



Student Life



Teaching

The colorful murals of Moulton Tower are a representation of the heart, soul and mission of the University of South Alabama — student life, research, teaching, and health care and outreach. The murals took three years to complete and were dedicated in October 2012.



Research



Health Care and Outreach

USA Foundation is Committed Partner in University's Continued Success



The USA Foundation has contributed nearly \$130 million to the University since the early 1990s. One of the many efforts the Foundation supports is the Whiddon Scholars Honors Program, which provides funding for professorships and scholarships to academically outstanding students.

One of the largest financial supporters of the University of South Alabama has been the foundation created to ensure the institution's growth.

Since the early 1990s, the USA Foundation has contributed more than \$129 million to the University, representing vital support for USA's missions of teaching, research, service and health care.

"The USA Foundation has as its mission the support of the University of South Alabama and its students, faculty and academic programs," said Maxey Roberts, the Foundation's managing director.

The Foundation was chartered in 1968 under the direction of USA's founding president, Dr. Fred Whiddon. It has functioned to raise funds solely for

USA while operating independently of it, growing into one of Alabama's largest higher education endowments.

After his 35-year presidency, Whiddon retired to a leading role at the Foundation before his death in 2002. Whiddon's foresight to support the University with an endowment fund when the University was only 5 years old was visionary, according to Roberts.

As late as the 1980s, the Foundation's assets were approximately \$200,000. Today, they are approximately \$283 million.

"The USA Foundation has as its mission the support of the University of South Alabama and its students, faculty and academic programs."

— Maxey Roberts, USA Foundation managing director

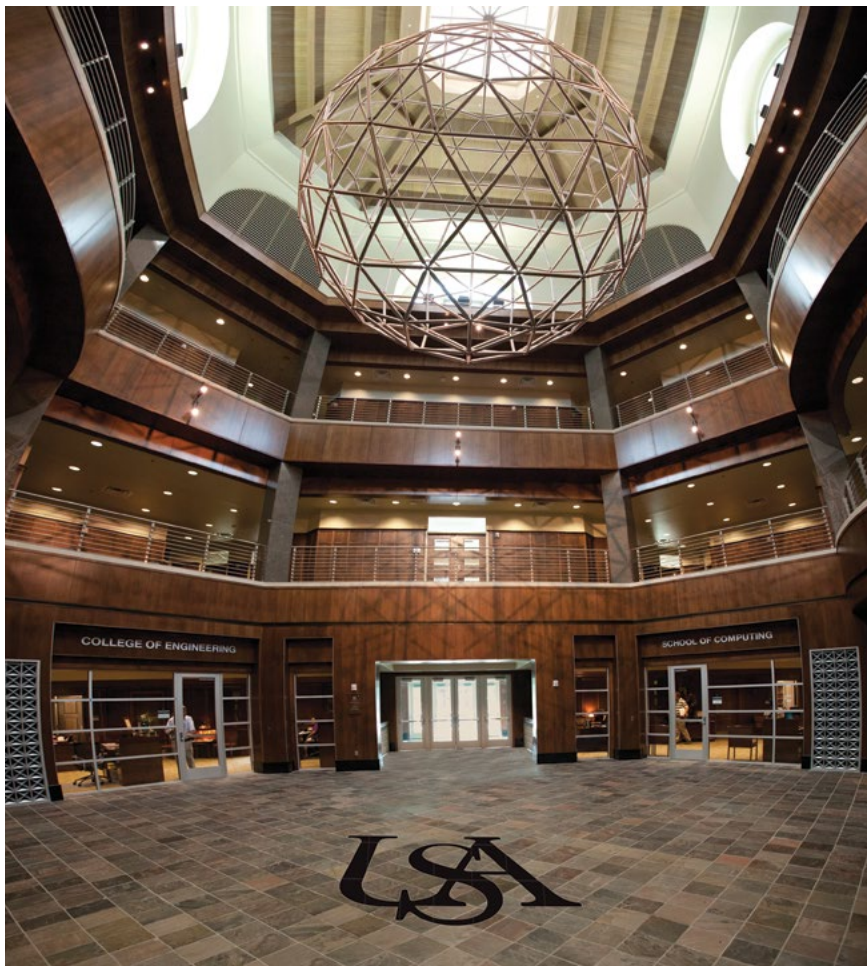
“The Foundation has significant investments in timberland, a renewable asset excellent for a foundation because it yields solid returns through the years,” Roberts said. The original 4,000 acres that Whiddon acquired for the Foundation have grown to 77,000 acres. The Foundation also has a balanced stock portfolio and oil and mineral interests.

Among the many highlights of its support to the University, the USA Foundation has donated more than \$16 million to the USA Mitchell Cancer Institute, the first academic cancer research institute in the upper Gulf Coast region and USA’s largest single research endeavor. It also supports the University’s Whiddon Scholars Honors Program, providing scholarship funding of \$750,000 annually to academically outstanding USA students and funding for more than 30 professorships.



Construction on a significant expansion to the University of South Alabama’s Children’s & Women’s Hospital was funded, in part, by money from the sale of Brookley Field property to the USA Foundation.

In 2010, the Foundation purchased the USA Brookley Center from the University for \$20 million to help fund the pediatric expansion at USA Children’s & Women’s Hospital. “Property development at Brookley will yield further program support for USA,” Roberts said. The Foundation also supports medical simulation programs used to train physicians, nurses and other health care professionals.



A 21-member board governs the Foundation and includes the University president, the chairman and vice chairman of the USA Board of Trustees, a faculty representative and an alumni representative. “A number of USA graduates serve on the Foundation board, and those alumni provide a unique perspective regarding what will benefit USA,” said Roberts, a graduate herself who served as the University attorney before moving to her current position.

“The Foundation, in working with the University in a dedicated and committed partnership, is able to provide that critical financial support base needed today, while ensuring continued funding for future generations,” Roberts said.

A gift from the USA Foundation funded the atrium at Shelby Hall, the new home for USA’s College of Engineering and School of Computing.



Brookley Supports the Creation and Evolution of Campus Programs



Brookley Air Force Base was one of the area's largest employers before closing in 1969. Land acquired by the University of South Alabama was used for programs before a sale to the USA Foundation to help fund an expansion at USA Children's & Women's Hospital. Photo courtesy of the Press-Register.

When the University of South Alabama was in its infancy in 1963, Brookley Air Force Base was a thriving military installation and one of the region's largest employers.

In less than a decade, Brookley would be closed, but the base would take on a new importance by supporting USA's evolution to prominence in the region's growth.

The former military property would benefit the University's teaching, research, health care and outreach missions for decades, culminating in its sale to help fund a major expansion at USA Children's & Women's Hospital.

Though Brookley's closing was seen as a major loss for the city, USA's acquisition in 1969 of 327 acres positioned the University for expansion.

Acquisition of this property from the Defense Department, pursued by USA President Dr. Fred Whiddon, was made on the condition that USA use it for educational purposes for not less than 30 years.

The Brookley campus, known as USA Brookley Center, would support the creation and evolution of numerous programs, including serving as an important early home for the College of Nursing and as a site for USA outreach programs such as conferences and special activities. The property included a conference center, cafeteria and golf course, as well as office space that USA made available to a host of governmental agencies.

"Brookley is in a unique position, bounded by the waters of Mobile Bay on one side and property owned by the Mobile Airport Authority on the other, with excellent transportation access."

— Maxey Roberts , USA Foundation managing director

Residential facilities at Brookley were rented to faculty, staff and the public.

In later years, as Brookley aged, needs changed, and many of Brookley's functions were moved to the main campus, the University began to divest itself of the property.

In 2008, University administrators decided there was an urgent need for a \$72 million pediatric expansion at USA Children's & Women's Hospital. The USA Foundation was asked to supply \$20 million for the project.

In September 2010, the Foundation's board agreed to purchase the property for \$20 million. The agreement stipulated that for five years, USA would continue to own and have use of the improvements at Brookley while the Foundation decided how to best develop the property.



The University of South Alabama's property at Brookley, between the airfield and Mobile Bay, featured a golf course, conference space, offices and housing.

USA Foundation Managing Director Maxey Roberts calls the purchase a good, long-term investment. In the summer of 2012, European aircraft manufacturer Airbus announced it would locate an assembly plant on nearby property at Brookley Aeroplex.

"We are taking steps to look at the best ways to use Brookley," Roberts said. "Brookley is in a unique position, bounded by the waters of Mobile Bay on one side and property owned by the Mobile Airport Authority on the other, with excellent transportation access."

Those developments, she said, are expected to generate revenue that will support the University's present and future endeavors, and Brookley will have come full circle in support of USA and the people it serves.



Brookley Air Force Base was an integral part of Mobile's economic engine. The aerospace industry remains strong at the site, with Airbus announcing in 2012 it would locate an assembly plant there. Photo courtesy of the Press-Register.



USA Baldwin Improves Access to Education in Fast-Growing County



The University of South Alabama opened its Baldwin County campus in 1984 to meet the needs of a growing region. Its location is convenient for Baldwin County residents and those in nearby Florida who want to take classes closer to home.

Baldwin County has been one of the state’s fastest-growing counties, and the University of South Alabama has grown with it to meet the needs of the region.

The University reached beyond its Mobile base in 1984 and began offering classes in Baldwin County to fewer than 100 students. But as the county’s population exploded, enrollment jumped and programs expanded.

Today, students can complete degree programs at the Baldwin County campus in communication, criminal justice, elementary education and interdisciplinary studies. The campus also has an accelerated degree program in nursing and popular non-credit courses in topics such as financial planning, foreign languages and exercise to meet the needs of people of all ages.

“We will continue to develop courses and programs that the community wants,” said Dr. David Johnson, USA’s senior vice president for academic affairs. “We match programs with demand.”

The campus’s location is convenient for Baldwin County residents and those in nearby Florida who want to take some of their classes closer to home. Baldwin County students also can take the same online courses as their Mobile counterparts.

Elementary education and criminal justice degrees often lead to hometown careers for Baldwin County

“We will continue to develop courses and programs that the community wants.”

— Dr. David Johnson, USA senior vice president for academic affairs

residents. Student-teachers get practice in local schools, just as criminal justice students get to see local law enforcement up close through internships.

The accelerated nursing program is especially popular with people who want to get into the health care field after obtaining a college degree in another specialty. It's a demanding program, with nursing classes compressed into a year.

“The accelerated nursing program makes the students well-prepared for a career in health care,” said Dr. Cynthia Wilson, director of USA Baldwin County. “The fact that college graduates can do the course in one year is very attractive to them.”

The credit courses, along with the leisure learning classes, are all part of the University's efforts to make the campus

an integral part of the community. The campus is plugged into the community in many ways — from monthly art gatherings and co-sponsorships of events like film series and concerts to advisers visiting Baldwin County schools to counsel prospective students. And students get to enjoy Fairhope's small-town bay environment.

Two of the campus's buildings are former city libraries, and the third is a former church — all reconfigured to maintain their history while offering state-of-the-art technology and modern instruction inside.



Two of the buildings on USA's Baldwin County campus are former libraries, and another is a former church, each reconfigured to fit the needs of a modern university. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.



The University offers a yearlong, accelerated nursing program at its Baldwin County campus. The program is especially popular among people who have degrees in another specialty but are interested in getting into the health care field.

USA Technology and Research Park: An Incubator of Innovation



USA Technology and Research Park, launched in 2002, builds public-private partnerships between the University and technology-based industry.

What happens when you combine innovations in the laboratories and classrooms of a modern university with the entrepreneurial spirit and capital resources of the private sector?

The answer:

- Clean and sustainable high-technology jobs.
- Better learning experiences for students.
- Research opportunities for faculty.
- Exciting new products and services for consumers.
- An enhanced economy.

These are the fundamentals behind the USA Technology and Research Park, launched in 2002 with the goal of building successful public-private partnerships between technology-based industry and the faculty and students

of the University of South Alabama. The park is now home to more than 600 private sector jobs and a dozen companies in computer science, information technology and biomedicine.

In fact, the development of the park is rooted in a collaboration between the University and one of its graduates. Neil Henderson earned a master's degree from the USA School of Computing in 1990 and founded Accelerated Technologies, a creator of embedded computer software systems.

For the many successes of the USA Technology and Research Park, the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce awarded USA one of its highest honors, "Innovator of the Year."



The Mobile-based firm was the first to take up residence in the new tech park, working with USA faculty, students and graduates to build its successful track record in the competitive field of high technology. And when Oregon-based international technology firm Mentor Graphics Corp. successfully purchased Henderson's company, the relationship between Henderson and the University was a key factor in keeping its high-technology workforce in Mobile.

Since then, companies of many sizes have moved in with an array of high-technology and biotechnology interests, representing industries including health care, computing and information systems, education, environmental protection and many others. The common thread is that they all work with USA faculty, students and alumni. The firms collaborate with faculty on research, involve students as interns, hire graduates as employees, and bring their company expertise into the classroom through guest lectures. Companies strengthen their businesses and at the same time enrich the education and research opportunities on campus.

For the many successes of the USA Technology and Research Park, the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce awarded USA one of its highest honors, "Innovator of the Year." The chamber cited the many benefits to the Gulf Coast, especially the park's ability to attract and



The ribbon-cutting at USA Technology and Research Park officially launched an endeavor that attracts high-tech jobs to the area while furthering USA's impact on the regional economy. From left in this 2003 photo, Mobile Mayor Mike Dow; President Gordon Moulton; Mentor Graphics President Gregory Hinckley; Mentor Graphics executive and USA alumnus Neil Henderson; and Jim Nix, USA trustee chairman.

retain sustainable, high-tech jobs, furthering USA's positive impact on the regional economy.

"One of the most important missions of a modern research university is supporting community economic development and healthy job growth," said USA President Gordon Moulton. "Through the USA Technology and Research Park, we are building partnerships between businesses and our faculty researchers, students and graduates — all working together in a university environment — to create, attract and retain high-technology jobs for the Mobile area."



USA Technology and Research Park, on the north edge of campus, is home to more than 600 private sector jobs and a dozen companies.

III.

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

*A Year-by-Year
Chronology of Success*



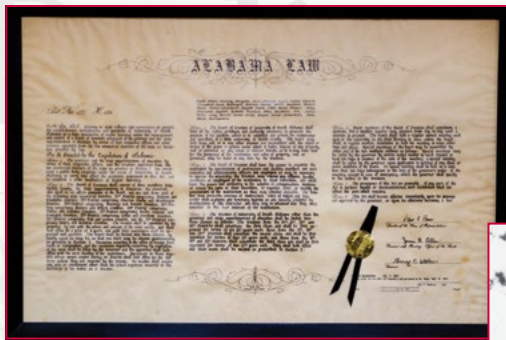
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

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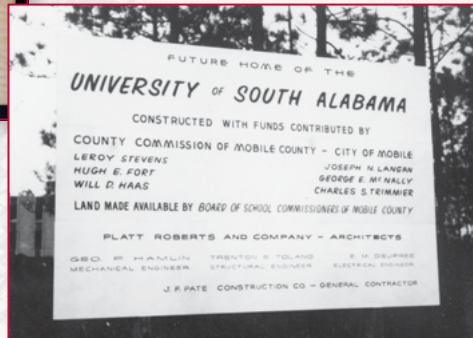
Historical Highlights

DIAL 433-1551

MOBILE, PRICHARD, CHICKASAW, ALABAMA



USA founded by act of the Alabama Legislature.



University moves from 154 St. Louis St. to present location in west Mobile.



USA campus dedicated.

May 3, 1963

October 1963

April 1964

June 1964

October 1964

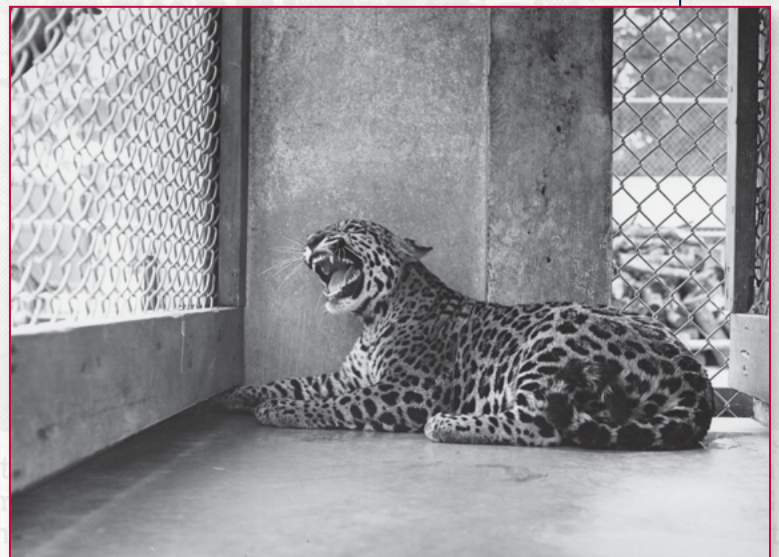
April 1965

First meeting of Board of Trustees; Dr. Frederick P. Whiddon named president.



First classes begin with 276 students enrolled.

Jaguar adopted as mascot. For years, USA owned a live jaguar named Mischka.



READY FOR DEDICATION The University of South Alabama will hold dedication ceremonies today at 3 p.m. The colorful program will find outside landscaping and some construction and interior furnishings completed since building later in the afternoon.

pottswode
ne. The
governor
four the

University Of South Alabama

Section



DIAL 433-1551



Groundbreaking for first residence hall complex, Alpha.



College of Medicine founded by Alabama Legislature.

Admitted to Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

October 1965

June 1967

December 1968

May 1969

August 1969

November 1970

First commencement; 88 bachelor's degrees conferred.



USA acquires 327 acres at Brookley Air Force Base from federal government.

Mobile General Hospital transferred to University, later named USA Medical Center.



receives Praise

Dr. Frederick P. Whiddon, president of the University of South Alabama, was the outstanding Young Man in Alabama last spring as one of Four Outstanding Young Men in Alabama.

Alabama's first new state-supported college or university in nearly 70 years will be dedicated here Sunday. The University of South Alabama, which was founded in 1965, will receive a copy of the charter from Gov. George Wallace in colorful ceremonies at 3 p.m. at the site of the first state college or university building in Alabama.

The public is invited to attend the historic ceremonies at 3 p.m. The entire program, which will begin with a colorful academic procession by the faculty, staff and trustees in academic robes, is expected to last about 45 minutes. It will be followed by an open house at the modern university building which now is completely furnished and operating at beyond capacity.

Visitors will note modern science equipment, full classrooms, comfortable student lounges, and a generally orderly but crowded building as the staff and administration has worked long hours to meet the

Mobile brought him recognition last spring as one of Four Outstanding Young Men in Alabama.

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The Mobile Press

MOBILE, PRICHARD, CHICKASAW, ALABAMA



Charter class of 25 students enters College of Medicine.



USA Baldwin County established.

USA initiates first Ph.D. program — basic medical sciences.

January 1973

October 1976

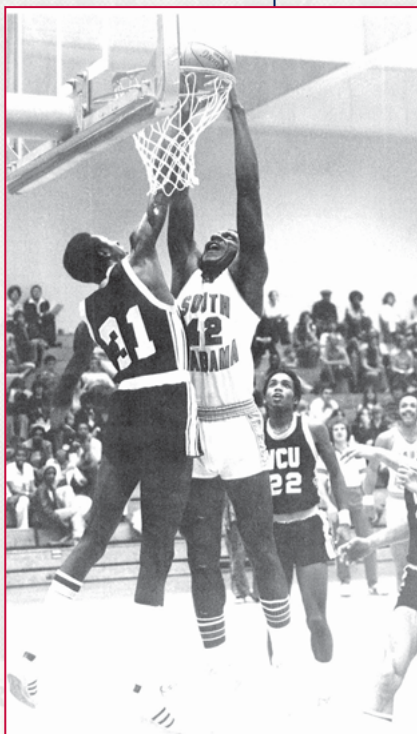
September 1978

January 1983

August 1984

1988

USA becomes a charter member of Sun Belt Athletic Conference.



USA Children's & Women's Hospital established as floor at USA Medical Center.

USA celebrates its 25th anniversary.



READY FOR... University of Alabama will... day at 3... The colorful program will find outside landscaping... some construction and interior furnishings completed

John Spottswood... June. The... Governor... to tour the

List Of Faculty And Staff Members



Dedication of Frederick Palmer Whiddon Administration Building.



V. Gordon Moulton named University president.

June 1990

October 1997

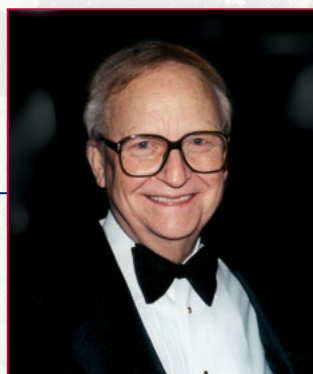
July 1998

July 1998

November 1998

May 1999

USA acquires Doctors Hospital and Knollwood Park Hospital; USA Children's & Women's relocates to Doctors building in 1998.



Dr. Frederick P. Whiddon retires as founding president.

Dedication of John W. Laidlaw Performing Arts Center.





Dedication of Mitchell Center arena.



Establishment of USA Cancer Research Institute, later renamed Mitchell Cancer Institute.

October 1999

October 2001

May 2002

June 2002

December 2002

Dedication of USA Children's Park at USA Children's & Women's Hospital displaying bronze sculptures celebrating children and families.



USA Technology and Research Park created.

USA awards 50,000th degree at fall commencement.



READY FOR DEDICATION — The University of South Alabama will hold dedication ceremonies today at 3 p.m. The colorful program will find outside landscaping and some construction and interior furnishings completed since

the open house... public is invited... June. The... Governor George Wallace... and to tour the building later in the

List Of Faculty And Staff Members



Dedication of 53,000-square-foot addition to University Library.



Launching of USA's first comprehensive fundraising campaign, Campaign USA. USA Cancer Research Institute renamed Mitchell Cancer Institute following a \$22 million gift in support of Institute from Mitchell family of Mobile.



Implementation of campus transportation system, Jag Tran.

March 2003

October 2003

February 2005

April 2005

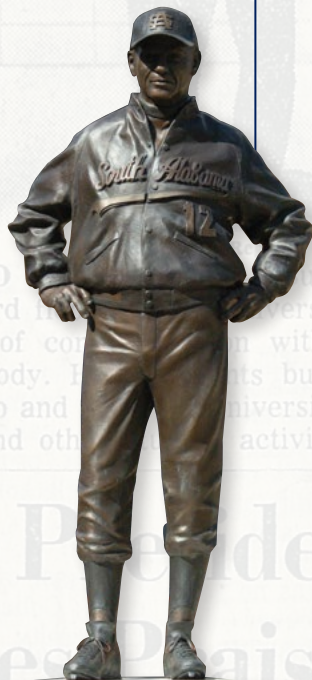
March 2006

September 2006

Dedication of new 16-acre Intramural Athletics Complex and Fieldhouse.



Dedication of Stanky Field, following a \$3.8 million renovation.



Dedication of Meisler Hall student services building named in honor of Herbert and Fanny Meisler of Mobile, who donated \$2 million to facility.



Young President Receives Praise

Dr. Frederick P. Whiddon, Mobile brought him recognition president of the University of last spring as one of Four Outstanding Young Men in Alabama.

Visitors will note modern science equipment, full classrooms, comfortable student lounges, and a generally orderly but crowded - 125 - ing as the staff and administration has worked long hours to meet the



Dedication of Alfred and Lucile Delchamps Archaeology Building for USA Center for Archaeological Studies.



USA Trustees approve NCAA-sanctioned football and marching band programs.

Opening of a privately funded student apartment complex, The Grove, housing 1,000 students.

October 2006 November 2006 March 2007 August 2007 November 2007 December 2007

USA and Auburn University collaborate to create pharmacy degree program on USA campus.

USA students present a petition to President Moulton in support of football and marching band programs.

Dedication of Joseph and Rebecca Mitchell Learning Resource Center at Mitchell College of Business.



Mobile Press Register Photo By John Spottswood

The open house at the beginning of classes last June. The public is invited to attend the program at which Governor George Wallace will be the main speaker and to tour the building later in the afternoon.



Inaugural season of USA's football and marching band programs.



First classes held in new glass arts building, a 5,000-square-foot facility in Visual Arts complex.

Dedication of Football Fieldhouse and practice fields.

November 2008

September 2009

September 2009

November 2009

September 2010

September 2010

Dedication of Health Sciences Building, new home of colleges of Allied Health Professions and Nursing.



Dedication of new state-of-the-art, 116,000-square-foot Student Recreation Center.



Dedication of USA Mitchell Cancer Institute building.



receives praise

Dr. Frederick P. Whiddon, president of the University of South Alabama, was the... Mobile brought him recognition last spring as one of Four Outstanding Young Men in Ala...

Visitors will note modern science equipment, full classrooms, comfortable student lounges, and a generally orderly but crowded... - 127 - ing as the staff and administration has worked long hours to meet th...



Dedication of Moulton Tower and Alumni Plaza.

Opening of Stokes Hall, a 330-bed "Learning Community" residence hall.



Success of USA's academic research program earns USA same Carnegie classification as University of Alabama and Auburn University for its high research activity.

October 2010

November 2010

August 2011

August 2011

2011

February 2012

Enrollment tops 15,000.



Opening of a new 20,000-square-foot dining hall near residence halls.

Construction begins on Specialized Laboratory Building on main campus following a \$14.5 million College of Medicine grant from the National Institutes of Health for research toward prevention and treatment of infectious diseases.





Completion of new campus entry portals.



A 195,000-square-foot expansion of USA Children's & Women's Hospital nearly doubles the hospital's size, enhancing patient care and services.



Opening of Shelby Hall, home to College of Engineering and School of Computing.

USA awards 75,000th degree.

2012

September 2012

October 2012

Spring 2013

May 2013

May 2013

Dedication of Moulton Tower murals.

USA celebrates 50th Anniversary.



PUBLIC INVITED

The public is invited to attend the historic ceremonies at 3 p.m. The entire program, which will begin with a colorful academic procession by the faculty, staff and trustees in academic robes, is expected to last about 45 minutes. It will be followed by an open house at the modern university building which now is completely furnished and operating at beyond capacity.

Visitors will note modern science equipment, full classrooms, comfortable student lounges, and a generally orderly but crowded - 129 -

Dr. Frederick P. Whiddon, president of the University of South Alabama, was the county...

IV.

BY THE NUMBERS

*The University of South Alabama's
Vital Statistics*



By the Numbers



The University of South Alabama's Vital Statistics

- **75,000** degrees awarded
- **15,000** students enrolled
- **250,000** patients treated annually
- **5,500** employees
- **\$2 billion** annual economic impact
- **\$400 million** annual payroll,
one of the largest in the Mobile area

Degrees Awarded by College

- Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health Professions – 5,300
- College of Arts and Sciences – 17,700
- Mitchell College of Business – 11,400
- School of Continuing Education and Special Programs – 1,600
- College of Education – 18,400
- College of Engineering – 4,700
- College of Medicine – 2,400
- College of Nursing – 10,100
- School of Computing – 2,200



Students and Programs

USA has educated:

- 2,400 physicians, one-third of the area's doctors
- 18,200 teachers and school administrators, including 85 percent of Mobile's public school teachers
- 11,200 business and accounting professionals
- 9,400 nurses
- 6,800 engineering and computer science professionals
- 5,100 allied health professionals



Research and Outreach

- External contracts and grants for fiscal year 2012: \$57 million.
- Licensing revenue from academic inventions and innovations: \$1.9 million.
- Federal direct appropriations since 1998: \$161.8 million.
- USA research and outreach touch a wide range of important issues including:
 - Health care
 - K-12 education
 - Coastal weather, environment, and seafood industry
 - Economic issues, polling and real estate
 - Gulf Coast history and culture
 - Energy and alternative fuels
 - Technology
 - Art, cultural and athletic activities



Health Care

- USA's hospitals and physicians treat more than 250,000 patients each year.
- More babies are born every year at USA Children's & Women's Hospital than any other area hospital — nearly 3,000 per year.
- USA offers many unique medical services including the area's only neonatal intensive care unit, only Level I trauma center, and the Mitchell Cancer Institute.



Economic Impact

- \$2 billion area economic impact annually
- Employs 5,500
- Annual payroll of \$400 million, one of the largest payrolls in Mobile and Baldwin counties
- Generates more than \$7 for every \$1 provided by the state
- USA 2012 Budget (revenues): \$867 million
State funding: \$106 million



V.

WITNESSES TO HISTORY

*Personal Memories of Those
Who Were There*





First Grad Found USA Life-Changing



The Rev. James LaRue Allison, pictured recently on campus, was the first graduate of the University of South Alabama. Below, Allison and his wife, Angela, ran into Gov. Robert Bentley as the governor was on his way to speak at the fall 2012 commencement. Photo courtesy of the Office of Gov. Robert Bentley.

The Rev. James LaRue Allison

- Received the first diploma in the first graduating class, 1967
- Bachelor of Science in English
- Retired Methodist minister

“I still, to this day, encourage people to go to South.”



Thanks to alphabetical order, the Rev. James LaRue Allison received the first of the 88 diplomas handed out during the University of South Alabama’s first commencement, in June 1967.

He was invited back to speak at commencement in 2003, the 40th anniversary of the University’s founding.

Before USA opened, Allison said, “There were a lot of students in this area who were country students, didn’t have a lot of money, didn’t come from big schools, and their chance of ever getting into a university was none.”

Allison was one of those “country students.” He grew up on a farm near Wilmer in west Mobile County. When he began taking classes at the former University of Alabama Mobile Center in downtown Mobile, he was 30 years old and married with five children. He had become a United Methodist minister, and the church wanted its preachers to have a college degree.

“I had classes with three people in them,” Allison said. “So, especially if it was a hard class, I’d come home, and my wife would say, ‘Well, how did you do on that test?’ I said, ‘Well, it was tough, but I came in No. 3.’”

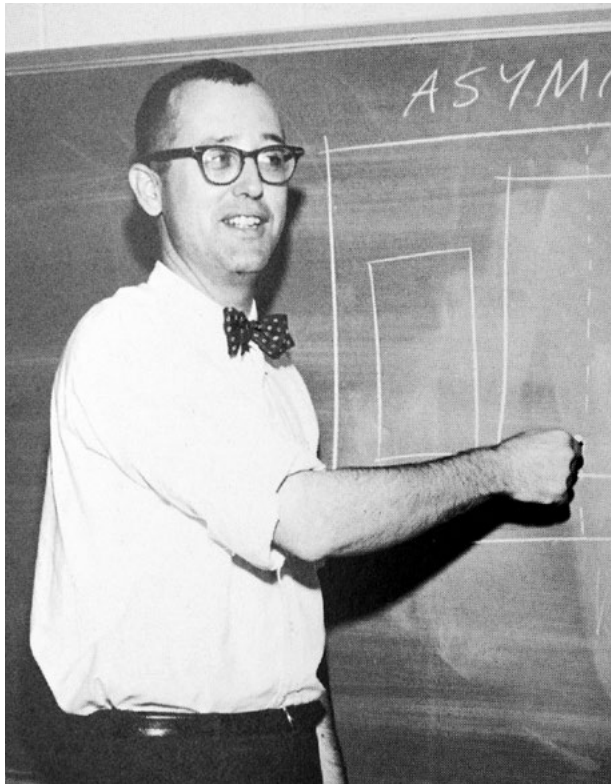
Two years into Allison’s higher education, the Mobile extension center gave way to the University of South Alabama. The campus contained a single building. “It had the cafeteria downstairs and the administration office on the first floor. And students met on the second floor.”

He formed close relationships with his teachers. “We’d eat supper together in their houses. Most of them lived in that row of houses right across the street from the school. ... We’d eat over there, and then go over to classes together.”

He still stops by the campus occasionally. “I’m amazed today there are 15,000 students. When I was here, there weren’t 150. But it was good. It was close. There was no competition. Everybody was really dedicated to learning.”

The USA experience changed his life. “I still, to this day, encourage people to go to South. I think it’s a great school.”

‘Wild and Woolly’ Beginnings at USA



John Cleverdon, USA's first full-time art instructor, remembers a can-do attitude at the University during its early years. At right is a photo of Cleverdon from the 1964-65 yearbook, for which he was an adviser and designed the cover, pictured below.

John Cleverdon was the first full-time art instructor at the University of South Alabama, hired in the fall of 1964 after teaching an art class at the University of Alabama Mobile Center.

Cleverdon remembers that when President Dr. Fred Whiddon called faculty meetings, “we could all fit into a classroom. It was sort of wild and woolly. It was a lot of fun. We all had a lot of ideas, a lot of which never came to pass.”

After those pioneering days, “things became more stratified, more set in stone,” he said. “But the first few years, you felt like you could do almost anything.”

Cleverdon, a woodcut printer and a painter specializing in acrylics, primarily taught two-dimensional design. His father, Ernest G. Cleverdon, was senior vice president at the old Merchants National Bank in Mobile. The elder Cleverdon played a major role in founding USA and sat on the Board of Trustees from 1963 to 1985.

The University expanded and diversified tremendously during his 34 years at USA, and so did the faculty, John Cleverdon said. “Of course, we got caught up with the Vietnam War. There was a significant population that was very much against the war, and you had a number of people, particularly veterans, who were in favor of the war. So there were shouting matches. But nothing got particularly out of hand.”

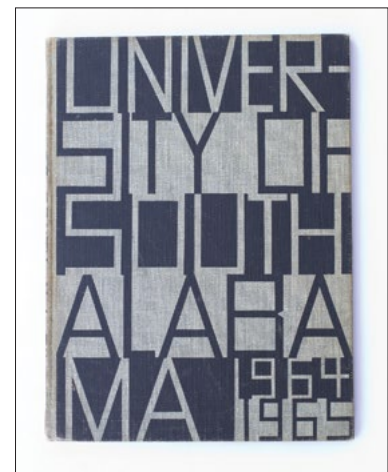
Cleverdon also fondly remembers that the late Elizabeth Gould, who wrote three books about Mobile architecture, taught in the art department from 1966 to 1975. Cleverdon said she left a tangible legacy: the Seaman’s Bethel Chapel, the Mobile Townhouse and the Toulmin House, three historic buildings that were relocated to campus in the 1960s. “She was largely instrumental in getting those moved out there.”

During his years at USA, Cleverdon said, “I think the students got more serious.” Today, “I run across former students all the time, and I’m always glad to see them.” Laughing, he added, “I’m always surprised they’re glad to see me.”

John Cleverdon

- Came to USA in 1964
- Professor of art and art history
- Retired in 1998

“I run across former students all the time, and I’m always glad to see them.”





First SGA President Recalls Saturday Tutoring



From left, Rick Nelson, the first president of the USA Student Government Association, chats with fellow SGA officers Terry Ankersen and Maury McDonnell in January 1965 at the school snack bar. Photo courtesy of Rick Nelson.

Rick Nelson

- Transferred to USA in 1964 from University of Alabama
- First Student Government Association president, 1964-65
- Member of first graduating class, 1967; later worked in the dean of students office



“I mean, where else could you do that?”

He was struggling with chemistry, so Rick Nelson called his University of South Alabama professor, Dr. Richard Legendre. At home. “He said, ‘Well, what are you doing?’” Nelson recalled. “I said, ‘Nothing.’ It was a Saturday morning. He said, ‘I’ll meet you out there.’”

So they met at the University. “He spent, oh, three or four hours with me going over some stuff that I was really having a problem with,” Nelson said. “He was great! I mean, where else could you do that?”

Nelson attended USA during the first full academic year, 1964-65, when he also became the University’s first Student Government Association president. He picked up a bachelor’s degree in biochemistry and a master’s in guidance and counseling. Then, before settling into a career in finance, he worked for several years at the USA dean of students office.

Once, he was headed for the bursar’s office to deposit some vending-machine quarters when Dr. Fred Whiddon, the University president, stopped him.

“He said, ‘I need you to do two things. I need you to give me some of that money. I’ll give you an IOU slip. And I need you to take me to the airport.’ They were having some kind of important meeting in Montgomery, and he had to get there right quick, so he had to meet a private plane at the airport. And he didn’t have any money on him.”

A day or two later, Dr. Whiddon reimbursed the quarters.

In his student days, there was “very little to do on campus,” Nelson said. “That’s why we had Snack Bar 101” — the nearly universal gathering of students and teachers at the snack bar between classes.

On many Friday nights, the Student Government Association sponsored casual dances at National Guard armories. “If it was a formal occasion, we used to have them in the Battle House,” Nelson said. “The old Battle House, in the Crystal Ballroom, if it was a coat-and-tie type of thing. And we did specify coats and ties on those dances.”

Beginning Was Small, Expectations Were Big



From left, USA professors Dr. Ferd Mitchell, Dr. Jack Copeland and Dr. Stanley Nolan are pictured in the physics laboratory in this mid-1960s photo, courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

The University of South Alabama's tremendous growth in its first 50 years has impressed most observers. But it hasn't surprised Dr. Stanley Nolan.

In fact, Nolan, a member of the original faculty — and, for a time, the entire physics department — believed USA was destined to grow remarkably.

During one of the faculty's first meetings, "we did predictions on what the number of students was going to be after a certain number of years," Nolan said. His guess was, as he recalls, "somewhere around 20,000." And he expected USA to reach that total in 10 to 15 years. It would have made Mobile's start-up university the largest in the state.

In the beginning, with the excitement of launching a new university, nobody really knew what to expect.

The University has come a long way since the first quarter, when it enrolled a grand total of two physics majors. "I do remember the administration trying to get on the phone to gather enough physics students to keep me at the University," Nolan said. Fortunately, "I had a lot of engineering students who took physics."

In the University's first year, he taught physics, mathematics and engineering — a total of 22 hours of classes one quarter. "I was a little busy."

Nolan came to USA from the University of Alabama in Huntsville, but it was really a homecoming. He's a native of Bayou La Batre, where his father was a fisherman and pipefitter.

"Amongst all of the new faculty," he said, "there was a great feeling of elation in starting a new university. Everybody was really gung-ho."

Dr. Stanley Nolan

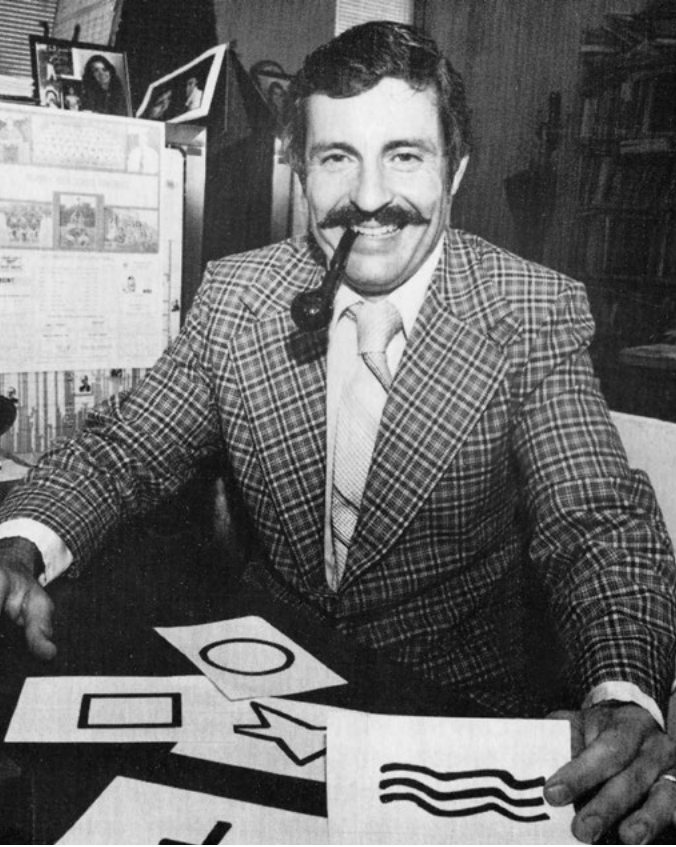
- Hired in spring 1964 as the first USA physics professor
- Created the USA physics curriculum
- Retired in 1995



"Amongst all of the new faculty, there was a great feeling of elation in starting a new university."



First Faculty Found Camaraderie, Excitement



Dr. Bill Vitulli watched the University evolve from one focused on teaching to a comprehensive research institution. Photo to the left is Vitulli circa fall 1980; at right is a modern portrait.

During his 37-year career at the University of South Alabama, Dr. Bill Vitulli said, he always had fun. “I felt it was an adventure for me.”

He arrived before USA’s second full academic year as an assistant professor of psychology, right out of graduate school. “The camaraderie among the faculty was really great. When we had faculty meetings, it wasn’t just the meeting of a department. It was a meeting of the entire University.”

Vitulli found USA sizzling with “the excitement, the exploration, the adventure of the things you could do as a psychology professor, as a professor in general. I always felt that I had complete academic freedom, enabling me to explore research projects at any time that I felt were of interest. For example, while my basic field of psychology was the experimental analysis of behavior, which dealt with a great deal of animal research, I also was fascinated by parapsychology.”

USA was created with a focus on teaching. As the University matured, research also became an integral part of its mission. “I always enjoyed teaching,” Vitulli said. It helped that “the students were very, very sensible, serious people who really wanted to learn.”

Today, Vitulli said, “we have scholars from areas within the University, including psychology, with national reputations. Our chairman has written a textbook on experimental psychology that’s in its eighth edition. And people have come from more established universities to become members of this faculty.”

Dr. Bill Vitulli

- Came to USA in 1965
- Professor of psychology
- Retired in 2001; still an editor for the *Journal of Sport Behavior* (published by USA) and *The Journal of Genetic Psychology*

“I always felt that I had complete academic freedom.”

Ph.D. in Hand, the Teacher Gets a Lesson



Dr. Thomas Wood, here in front of the Mitchell College of Business, was a certified public accountant when he began teaching but said he learned from his students how to be a better educator.

As a certified public accountant, Thomas D. Wood taught some of the University of South Alabama's first accounting classes. He began teaching at the University of Alabama Mobile Center and stayed when USA opened its doors.

But Dr. Fred Whiddon, the University's first president, insisted that Wood get a terminal degree. So, in 1966, the accountant left for the University of Florida. "I asked him, 'Well, what if I don't make it?'" Wood recalled. "He said, 'You just keep right on going south.'"

Wood did make it. He returned four years later as Dr. Wood, with a master's and a doctorate. He became Professor Wood and eventually spent six years as chairman of the USA accounting department. Along the way, he trained many of Mobile's CPAs.

Wood's expertise benefited the University beyond the classroom, though. He helped hire University staff accountants. "I interviewed them and decided if I thought they were all right." And, Wood said, he assisted the University comptroller, John Crompton, in setting up an accounting system.

Wood greatly admired Whiddon, whose genius, Wood said, extended even to deciding where to place the growing University's sidewalks. "He waited until the buildings were up," Wood said, "and then let the kids walk along the grass. And where the grass got worn down, that's where he built sidewalks."

After a few years of teaching, Wood learned that, even with a buttoned-down subject such as accounting, "the technique of being the solemn minister of the truth, or whatever you want to call it, was not going to cut it." So, he said, "I tried to have fun in class."

He walked up and down the aisles. He plopped into a seat next to a student and continued lecturing from there. He cracked jokes.

But he refused to relax his academic standards. He still strove to be a demanding teacher. And, he said, "I believe you'll discover, talking to my students, that I was."

Dr. Thomas D. Wood

- Taught accounting as a CPA at the University of Alabama Mobile Center; continued when USA opened in 1964
- Went to the University of Florida in 1966 to earn a master's degree and doctorate
- Returned to USA and became professor of accounting; chaired accounting department for six years; left in 1986

"The technique of being the solemn minister of the truth, or whatever you want to call it, was not going to cut it."



Moultons and USA Share Remarkable Journey



At left, Gordon Moulton, standing, works with colleague Warren Beatty on a massive forerunner to today's desktop computers in this photo from the early days of the University. USA had been open for classes only two years when Moulton joined the business faculty in 1966.

Below, Gordon and Geri Moulton in 1980.

Gordon Moulton

- President of the University of South Alabama, 1998-present
- Served as vice president for services and planning, founding dean of the School of Computer and Information Sciences and director of the Computer Center
- 46-year member of the faculty in business and computer sciences



"Graduation is still, even after 46 years, the most satisfying part of the job."

"It was June 1, 1966, and I had been offered a job as a teacher in the College of Business at the University of South Alabama," President Gordon Moulton reminisced of his earliest memories of USA.

"We were cautiously excited about moving from Atlanta, although neither of us had ever been to Mobile. Geri and I packed our nicest clothes, an ice chest stocked with food, climbed into our blue, un-air-conditioned Volkswagen Beetle and drove as far as Spanish Fort in a single day!

"The following morning, we continued our journey. Stopping on the Causeway for fuel, I asked the attendant for directions to the University. He had never heard of it ... had no idea. This was a little unnerving to my young wife. We drove and drove, and finally, there it was: an entire university in two buildings.

"The University was considered to be at the far reaches of western Mobile, with lots of dirt roads, and a couple of moonshiners were still conducting business on campus property."

Moulton recalls that founding President Dr. Fred Whiddon and the people he hired were convinced from the beginning that USA would be successful.

"Faculty and staff did multiple jobs. We did whatever it took."

While USA was founded in 1963, classes didn't begin until the first building opened in 1964. "I came in June 1966, so I attended the graduation of the first class in 1967, and have been fortunate to attend every commencement since then — 46 years," Moulton said.

"Graduation is still, even after 46 years, the most satisfying part of the job — the expressions on the faces of our graduates, many of whom are first-generation college students, and their families, and the role USA has played in giving these young people the opportunity to embrace a bigger world. That's what we're here to do."

Pride in a University ‘For the People’

When USA students voted to support football and marching band, Wayne Davis was responsible for making the new programs financially successful. Shown at a USA football game are, from left, USA trustees Jimmy Shumock and Jim Yance; Senior Associate Vice President Steve Simmons; Davis; and President Gordon Moulton.



Below, Davis' college yearbook photo, courtesy of the Davis family.

When Wayne Davis was growing up in the south Alabama town of Atmore in the 1950s, he longed for a way to afford college by living at home and commuting.

Though not college educated, Davis' parents — both from farm families — instilled in their 10 children the value of higher education. But local options were limited. The closest major city, Mobile, had no public four-year university. So Wayne left home to attend the University of Alabama, where he worked three jobs to earn his bachelor's and master's degrees in business statistics.

But while he was away, something remarkable happened. Mobile became home to a public four-year university.

"If the University of South Alabama had been here when I graduated from high school in 1960, I would have come here in a heartbeat. It would have been so much easier and better for me and my family," Davis reminisced.

"Back in the 1960s, the statistics indicated that a large population center like Mobile really needed a public university. But there were major forces in the state, especially the established universities, that did not want to see a four-year public university in Mobile.

"Fortunately, Mobile's people were dedicated to all of the detail work that was needed to make the University of South Alabama a reality."

USA ultimately became Davis' ticket back home. In 1978, he came to work in the young institution's financial affairs division, where he has served 35 years. He has seen a lot of growth in that time.

"When I came here, USA had 6,000 students and a budget of about \$61 million; today, we have 15,000 students and a budget of more than \$800 million," he explained. "It has been amazing.

"I'm most proud of the opportunities that USA has created for so many. We are a university that gives everyone a chance. We don't have an ego. We are a university for the people."

Wayne Davis:

- USA financial affairs division, 1978 to present
- Vice president for financial affairs, 1996 to present
- Served as vice president during two USA presidential administrations



"We are a university that gives everyone a chance."



Helping Every Student Succeed



Pat Covey, center, works with two students from the first class of clinical laboratory sciences in the USA Medical Sciences Building.

Dr. Pat Covey

- Came to USA in 1975
- Founding dean of the College of Allied Health Professions (now named in her honor); retired in 2008 as senior vice president for academic affairs
- Donated with husband Lee a \$2 million estate gift for allied health professions scholarships



“It’s pretty nice to sit up on that stage and watch students walk across who have six or seven or eight job offers.”

Dr. Pat Covey trained in neurophysiology, intending to be a researcher. Instead, during 33 years at the University of South Alabama, she made it possible for others to do research.

USA hired her as assistant professor and chairwoman of the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences. “The first thing we had to do was to start from absolute scratch the first health sciences program other than nursing,” she said. “Over the course of the next few years, we really put together all of the health sciences curricula. . . . My job was to facilitate not only teaching excellence but also the research output by the faculty.”

For a while, no matter how fast USA expanded health sciences programs, it wasn’t fast enough to keep up with demand. At graduation, Covey said, “It’s pretty nice to sit up on that stage and watch students walk across who have six or seven or eight job offers in their pockets. We used to have employers actually buy the student names so they could try to recruit them. They didn’t buy them from us. They bought them from the students.”

USA still kept academic standards high for incoming freshmen, Covey said, without neglecting the unspectacular but solid classroom performers whom she calls “bread-and-butter students.”

“And we take some that some people might consider a risk,” as long as “we have the right programs in place to advise and to nurture those students.”

Covey, whose success as a leader ultimately propelled her to the highest academic position at the University — senior vice president for academic affairs — expressed that her greatest satisfaction was how USA improved the lives of individual students.

Several years ago, she said, one man overcame homelessness to earn a degree in engineering. “This young man, when he graduated, gave a \$200 anonymously donated scholarship to the institution. He wasn’t doing it to make himself look big. He was so happy that he was given the opportunity to go to school here.”

The Birth and Naming of a University



From left, Robert Edington, Gov. George C. Wallace and representatives of the state archives. Edington used his political acumen to promote the growth of the new university and its medical school. Photo courtesy of Robert Edington.

By 1963, said Robert Edington, Mobile's leaders had agreed that the city needed a public four-year degree-granting university. "In making our studies, we determined that Mobile as a city had the lowest percentage of college graduates of any major town in Alabama." The next step was the Legislature.

Edington was a member of the Alabama House of Representatives. "To get anything done in that day in the Legislature," he said, "you had to either have the backing of Gov. (George C.) Wallace or at least not have him opposed."

The University of Alabama tried to block the effort. But, Edington said, UA was having some conflicts with the governor, which played to the advantage of the Mobile initiative.

In drawing up the legislation, an obvious question arose: What would be the institution's name? Edington said state Rep. Clara Stone Fields of the Mobile legislative delegation spoke up. "She said, 'You know, "USA" just has a good ring to it. University of South Alabama.' I mean, how can you beat that? Bingo. That is all the thought and study that went into a name for this university."

The next great legislative battle, in 1969, involved USA's plan to establish a College of Medicine. The University of Alabama at Birmingham contended that its School of Medicine sufficed for the state.

"Alabama needed family practitioners in rural areas," Edington said. "But UAB appeared to be keyed more to developing specialists who went to big cities."

USA carried the day. "I don't know how we did it," said Edington, who was then in the Alabama Senate. "There was a lot of trading and backing and filling and 'We'll vote for your bridge if you'll vote for this.'"

The USA College of Medicine has performed as advertised and then some, Edington said. "It's certainly increased the number of doctors, and there's a substantial number of doctors in Mobile who are graduates of this medical school who may not have gone into medicine had it not been available right here."

Robert Edington

- Helped create USA and the USA College of Medicine as a member of the Alabama House and Senate
- Instrumental in bringing the USS Alabama to Mobile
- Attorney; Navy veteran of Korean War; Mobilian of the Year in 2007



"USA' just has a good ring to it."



How USA Got Its First Coed Dorm



Dr. Malcolm Howell sits before a graduate education class in 1965 inside what is now the Frederick Palmer Whiddon Administration Building. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Dr. Malcolm Howell

- Came to USA in 1964 as associate professor of education
- Taught administration and secondary education
- Dean of students, 1968-88; retired in 1988



“It’s taken a long time nationally for people to see that it’s important that students develop socially and emotionally as well as intellectually and academically.”

The University of South Alabama broke ground for its first residence hall complex in October 1965. Not long after, the director of housing came to Dean of Students Dr. Malcolm Howell with a problem. The University had two residence halls for men and two for women. But the gender ratio of incoming students would require one of two things: making one dorm coed or leaving it empty.

The housing director wanted to ask the Board of Trustees to approve a coed dorm — a radical concept at the time. Howell knew the board would refuse. “I said, ‘Dr. Whiddon hired us to make decisions. I’m empowering you now to go ahead and create a coed dorm.’”

“Dr. Whiddon” was University President Dr. Fred Whiddon. “About six weeks after the quarter started,” Howell said, “my phone rang. Dr. Whiddon said, ‘Malcolm, do we have a coed dorm?’ And I said, ‘Dr. Whiddon, rather than say yes or no, let me come downstairs and talk to you.’”

Howell knew the bond issue that had financed the dorms was based on 90 percent occupancy. Leaving a dorm empty would have significant financial consequences. He explained all that to Whiddon. “And he said, ‘OK, go ahead.’ It wasn’t based upon any rationale other than dollars and cents.”

As dean of students, Howell considered himself an educator just as much as when he taught in the classroom. “Back then, most of the academic administrators kind of thought that all of the things that we did were just an aside and were not really that significant to the mission of the University, that the mission of the University was intellectual and academic.

“I think it’s taken a long time nationally for people to see that it’s important that students develop socially and emotionally as well as intellectually and academically. You can’t carve people up into those different parts. The things that people in student personnel do are significant in the long-term development of individuals.”

Faculty Hiring Got Personal Attention



Dr. Wally Kaempfer said he remembers President Dr. Fred Whiddon as a visionary, entrepreneur and expert politician who would personally interview each hire.

Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Just how passionately did Dr. Fred Whiddon, first president of the University of South Alabama, care about the quality of the faculty? At least in the early years, he personally vetted each hire, said Dr. Wally Kaempfer, who came to the University as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in 1967.

“He scrutinized their letters of recommendation. He scrutinized their transcripts. He interviewed them. He wanted to talk to every one of them. He was a very active participant in that,” Kaempfer said. “He didn’t have time for some things, but he always had time for that.”

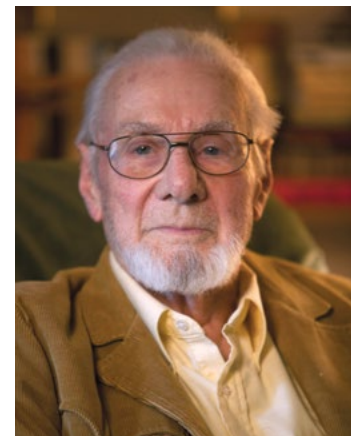
Kaempfer described Whiddon as a visionary, an entrepreneur and an expert politician. At one high-level meeting, the wrangling dragged on and on until somebody called a break. Whiddon wandered into a corner with another participant. When the meeting reconvened, those two suddenly announced a deal. “This is a fairly typical Whiddon type of maneuver, you see,” Kaempfer said. “Somehow or other, he identified the person who could seal the deal. He moved him off to one side a few feet, and they had a few minutes’ conversation. And that was it.”

The young university evolved rapidly, as did the world around it. “We had so many tumultuous social changes during those years,” Kaempfer said. “Let me put it this way: When I first got into the deaning business as an academic dean, work was, I would say, 75 percent academic and 25 percent administrative. By the time I got out of deaning ... that had been roughly reversed. It was about 75 percent administrative and 25 percent academic.”

Kaempfer lived on campus for nine years, in a house on Old Shell Road about where the Student Recreation Center is now. Today, he said, if he returned to the campus, “I’d get lost.”

Dr. Wally Kaempfer

- Came to USA in 1967
- Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of political science
- Retired in 1986



“Somehow or other, he identified the person who could seal the deal.”



USA Made Him CEO-Ready



Tom Corcoran stands at the 1968 spring formal for Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity, which he served as president. Corcoran, now a USA trustee, said the University is constantly striving to improve. Photo courtesy of Tom Corcoran.

Tom Corcoran

- USA Bachelor of Science degree in marketing, 1970
- Retired CEO, Fort Dodge Animal Health; Distinguished Alumni Award, 2008
- Appointed to USA Board of Trustees, 2010



“I never felt the least bit unprepared to compete.”

It was 1970. Tom Corcoran, with his brand-new bachelor’s degree in marketing, sat in a training class in Cleveland for his new employer, an oil and chemical company called Diamond Shamrock.

He took stock of the other new hires. “They were from Ohio State, Penn State, Carnegie Mellon, one guy from Lehigh — some pretty good schools. And here I was this little guy from the University of South Alabama.”

He endured a few jokes — “Is that actually a four-year school?” But his education turned out to be no joke at all. “Because of the preparation from the University, I never felt the least bit unprepared to compete with those guys,” Corcoran said. “It worked out fine. Except when they’d start talking about football.” He grinned and added, “Thankfully, that’s all changed now, too.”

He started his business career early. “I worked my way through school and had a job just about every day I was at South Alabama. But yet I still participated in a fraternity, was president of my fraternity and did a lot of activities. I was involved in intramurals and had a normal college life.”

Corcoran praises his USA College of Business professors. “We had people who were telling us what the real world was like.” He retired early a few years ago as CEO of Fort Dodge Animal Health, a major maker of vaccines and pharmaceuticals for animals. In 2010, he was named to the USA Board of Trustees.

From an executive’s point of view, he approves of USA’s administrators. “They are constantly trying to get better. Whether it be facilities, whether it be faculty, athletic teams, support staff, what have you, it is not a stand-still kind of mentality. It’s very, very dynamic.”

In terms of the bottom line, “The University provides a really, really good bargain. It’s still relatively inexpensive to get a very high-caliber education.

“It needs to continue to do what it’s doing and then do it better every day, whether it be teaching or athletics or the administration. And then the growth will take care of itself.”

A Dual Mission: Healing and Training



Stan Hammack, pictured at USA Medical Center, directs the University of South Alabama Health System and sees firsthand the lasting impact the University has on the region. Below, Hammack in the late 1970s. Photo courtesy of Brenda Hammack.

The University of South Alabama Health System treats 250,000 patients a year and employs more than 3,000 people — 55 percent of the University’s full-time positions. But it started as a byproduct of the College of Medicine.

Medical students need hospital training. USA could have contracted with existing hospitals, said Stan Hammack, who heads the Health System, but “there was a decision at some point to go for broke.” So, in 1970, USA acquired the financially struggling Mobile General Hospital from the county and converted it into the USA Medical Center.

Adding health care delivery to the University’s mission of education was, Hammack conceded, ambitious. But it worked. After the Medical Center came Children’s & Women’s Hospital and the Mitchell Cancer Institute, all resting on the strength of the USA Physicians Group, which encompasses the clinical practices of the medical faculty.

“When you have an academic program,” Hammack said, “the physicians want to do things that are special.” So USA has always looked for unfilled niches. “We have the only Level 1 trauma center in the area. When it comes to NICU (the neonatal intensive-care unit), pediatric intensive care, high-risk OB, those types of things, there are not alternatives in town.”

Hammack said the Health System combines with the medical, nursing and allied health colleges to form “a factory of manpower” that turns out physicians, nurses and allied health professionals — therapists, technologists and the like.

USA’s investment in health care has had a far-reaching impact on the community. “A significant number of the nurses — in fact, the majority — in this whole region were trained by the University of South Alabama,” Hammack said. “Same thing for those in allied health. When it comes to the College of Medicine, somewhere approaching 40 percent of the physicians trained here one way or the other.”

The ultimate objective, Hammack said, is longer, healthier lives for people of the Gulf Coast region through academic medicine.

Stan Hammack

- Came to USA in 1975
- Vice president for health systems
- Began as a pharmacist; received Master of Public Administration degree at USA



“When you have an academic program, the physicians want to do things that are special.”



Forecast is Good for USA Meteorology



Dr. Bill Williams sits at a desk in his first office in 1969. Two decades later, he would launch the Coastal Weather Research Center, which delivers weather forecasts to clients including corporations and the government. Photo courtesy of Dr. Williams.

Dr. Aaron "Bill" Williams

- Came to USA in March 1967 as an instructor in geography; left in 1969 to get a Ph.D. in geography; returned in 1971. Began doing radio weather reports in 1979
- Founded USA's Coastal Weather Research Center in 1988; helped USA create a Bachelor of Science program in meteorology in 1999
- Now associate professor emeritus of geography; retired in 2009 but continues teaching climatology and directs the Coastal Weather Research Center



"The National Weather Service is not going to call them up. ... We're going to do that."

When he came to teach at the University of South Alabama in 1967, Aaron Williams had just received his master's degree in geography from the University of Missouri. "I arrived in a heat wave and wondered, is this what it's like here? It was 90 degrees in the middle of March," Williams said, "so it was a shock."

He felt better when he completed his paperwork. "I was elated at my first contract, which was \$6,600 as an instructor. I thought that was phenomenal." Later, he earned a doctorate in geography.

In 1979, Williams took a side job doing radio weather reports on WKSJ-FM. He had a bachelor's degree in meteorology from Florida State, so he knew what he was talking about. But the station didn't like the sound of "Aaron." He went back to a childhood nickname, added his current academic title, and became "Dr. Bill."

"Dr. Bill" moved full time to radio in 1981, but couldn't stay away from the University. He continued teaching part time. He came back to USA a few years later with a big idea, and the University liked it. In 1988, he and USA launched the Coastal Weather Research Center.

"We now serve more than 110 companies in nine states, providing weather forecasts as well as warnings and specialized hurricane information," Williams said. "We have an array of clients from Exxon Mobil to the U.S. Coast Guard to Louisiana State University to power companies and shipbuilders."

Why would a business want its own special weather report? Consider paper companies. "They have large cranes out in the wood yards," Williams said. "Those cranes have a wind threshold of 35 miles per hour. Well, most of the larger thunderstorms produce wind gusts over 35 miles per hour." The companies need to know exactly when a thunderstorm is headed their way so they can lower the crane booms.

"The National Weather Service is not going to call them up personally and give them a warning. We're going to do that."

USA students also have benefited immensely from the weather expertise of Williams and his colleagues at the University of South Alabama, a national leader in the education of meteorology students.

Library's Role Stays Central as Systems Evolve



President Gordon Moulton recognizes Jerry Wright for his years of service. During his career, Wright has seen the digital evolution of libraries.

In 1973, Jerry T. Wright got his first library job, right out of graduate school, at the University of South Alabama. The library, he said, consisted basically of “books and journals and film — I think probably 16-millimeter film at the beginning. And long-playing recordings.”

Even back then, the library had computers. But the machines were deemed too complicated for public use. If a faculty member or student wanted to find a journal article, a librarian trained in the arcane techniques of “mediated searching” would coax the reference from the computer. “But the articles themselves were still in print journals,” Wright said. “The articles were not available online.”

The University Library, originally housed in a single room in the administration building, got a home of its own in 1968. A huge addition opened in 2003. “It vastly expanded our space for books and journals and just places for students to be — study rooms, tables, places to use computers,” Wright said. “It’s a much more comfortable building.”

Now that the power of information has made geeks cool, librarians have a better image, Wright said. When his career began, a librarian “was just someone who is the keeper of the books. I don’t think that stereotype holds much anymore.”

Despite the wonders of Google, Wright said, people still need librarians. “A lot of people are self-sufficient and may not need a librarian, but there are people who do. Technological savvy doesn’t necessarily mean that the person asks the right questions or goes to the right place to find out the kind of information that they’re looking for. So I think there’s a role. Certainly a role as a facilitator, if not ‘keeper of the books.’”

Libraries, in some form, will have a place in the digital future, Wright predicted. “The printless library may well come about. Or the idea of a library as a fixed place, that may go away.” Still, he said, “People are going to continue to need information.”

Jerry T. Wright

- Came to the USA library in December 1973 after receiving a master’s degree in library science from the University of Kentucky
- Reference librarian for the humanities
- Also an adjunct instructor in the English department



“The printless library may well come about.”



Humble Beginnings for Dean of Students



As the first secretary to the first dean of students, Sharon McDougald quickly learned how to deal with almost anything. Here, in this undated photo, McDougald stands in front of a door she decorated in the administration building for the annual holiday door-decorating contest. Photo courtesy of Sharon McDougald.

Sharon McDougald

- Became the first secretary to the first dean of students in 1965
- Later became administrative assistant to the vice president for student affairs
- Retired in 2006



“They didn’t have a space for the new dean of students, so they stuck him in the mailroom.”

At first sight, the University of South Alabama left Sharon McDougald unimpressed. “I was working at the University of Alabama, and I moved back home to be with my family. So Mother said, ‘Let me show you our new university.’ She drove us by, and I laughed. It was one building.”

Three months later, she successfully interviewed in that building — now the Frederick Palmer Whiddon Administration Building — to become secretary to Dr. John Cummer, USA’s first dean of students. The University, in only its second full year, had already outgrown its facility.

“They didn’t have a space for the new dean of students, so they stuck him in the mailroom,” McDougald said. “Then, when I was hired and there were two of us, they had to come up with a larger space so two desks could go in there. There was a storage room between the small auditorium and the president’s office. They cleaned it out, put two desks in there and ordered a typewriter. We didn’t have a phone for several days. So I’ve always told people, ‘Well, we started right next to the president.’”

McDougald learned to deal with almost anything. When the University built its first four residence halls, each room had a set of two keys. “So they just pitched them in one cardboard box, and then they sent them to the dean of students’ office for us to sort them out. They weren’t even sorted according to building, much less the hall. You don’t know how many man-hours it took to find the key to the right room so that we could let the students in.

“Student affairs is where the rubber hits the road. It’s where the complaints come. It’s where the actual student life outside of the classroom is coordinated, and even their entertainment, everything.

“Most of our students were just great. For one thing, they actually came here for an education. A lot of them couldn’t afford to go to Alabama and Auburn. That’s why we needed South Alabama. There was a huge need for it.”

Medical School ‘Guinea Pigs’ Make Good



Dr. Pat Murphy was a member of the charter class of the College of Medicine, which included, from left on the bottom row, Bill Dumas, John Warren, Dan Meadows, Gene Rich, Tony Taylor, Eldon Scott; next row, George Lacy, Danny Hood, Cecilia Hermann, Robert Cohen, Gaeton Lorino, Charles Herlihy; next row, George Hall, Mike Strider, Pat Murphy, Doug Tappan, George Veale, Robert Levin; back row, Fred Strickland, Pat Kilgo, J.F. “Peck” Garner, Al Newman, John Wagner, Hugh DeJarnette and Tom Wool.

As a member of the first class at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine, did Dr. Pat Murphy feel that he was a pioneer?

“Pioneer?” Murphy said. “Maybe a better term would be ‘guinea pig.’” He laughed. “A lot of our medical school professors had never really taught in medical school before. About half had; half had not. So we were all learning as we went along.”

Apparently, both teachers and students learned quickly. Of the 20 graduating members of that first class, Murphy said, “at least half of those people subsequently became chief residents in whatever specialty they chose. One in radiology. I was chief resident in internal medicine. Several more were chief residents in ob-gyn. So I think our training here actually prepared us well.”

After completing his postgraduate internship, residency and fellowship, Murphy returned to his hometown of Mobile to practice. He’s an interventional cardiologist. “We do balloon angioplasty, stents, that sort of thing. We try to keep patients out of the hands of the surgeons.”

He’s active with the USA Alumni Association and remains strongly connected to USA in several training-related capacities. For example, “Fellows, they’re called, in training in cardiology rotate with us, and we teach them.”

Murphy’s daughter, a speech pathologist, got her master’s degree from the University, and Patrick L. Murphy Jr. followed in his father’s footsteps at the USA College of Medicine.

“USA allowed me to pursue my dream, literally,” said the senior Murphy. “And I’ll forever be indebted to them and to those people who helped me.”

For at least some of those who helped, he has been able to return the favor. “Probably the greatest accolade I’ve ever received is that, once I got out of training, two of my undergraduate professors and four of my medical school professors who had developed cardiac problems chose me as their cardiologist.”

Dr. Pat Murphy

- Part of the charter class at the USA College of Medicine, graduating in 1976; received undergraduate degree in chemistry from USA in 1972
- Three years of internal medicine training at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston; three years of cardiology training at Emory University in Atlanta
- Interventional cardiologist with Diagnostic & Medical Clinic, a multispecialty group in Mobile



“USA allowed me to pursue my dream.”



Holding Court in a Doorway



Barbara Rush is recognized for her service in this undated photo with President Dr. Fred Whiddon. Photo courtesy of Barbara Rush.

Barbara Kent Rush

- Came to USA in 1965 after having taught at Auburn University and Tulane University
- Instructor in English
- Retired in 1993



"We tried to put on the dog. We pulled out every stop."

When Barbara Kent Rush joined the University of South Alabama's English department in 1965, John Edward Hardy was the chairman. He had an unusual way of keeping his department informed.

Hardy conducted much of his business, Rush said, while standing in the doorway between his office and his secretary's, knowing full well that the secretary's other door opened to the rest of the department.

"I can see him now," Rush said. "He'd lean back on the door jamb between his office and where the secretary sat." From there, he would dictate correspondence and memos. "Anything he was sending — it could be a letter to the president or to a national body or to anybody — he didn't care that we heard it because he wanted all of us to be in the know about the department."

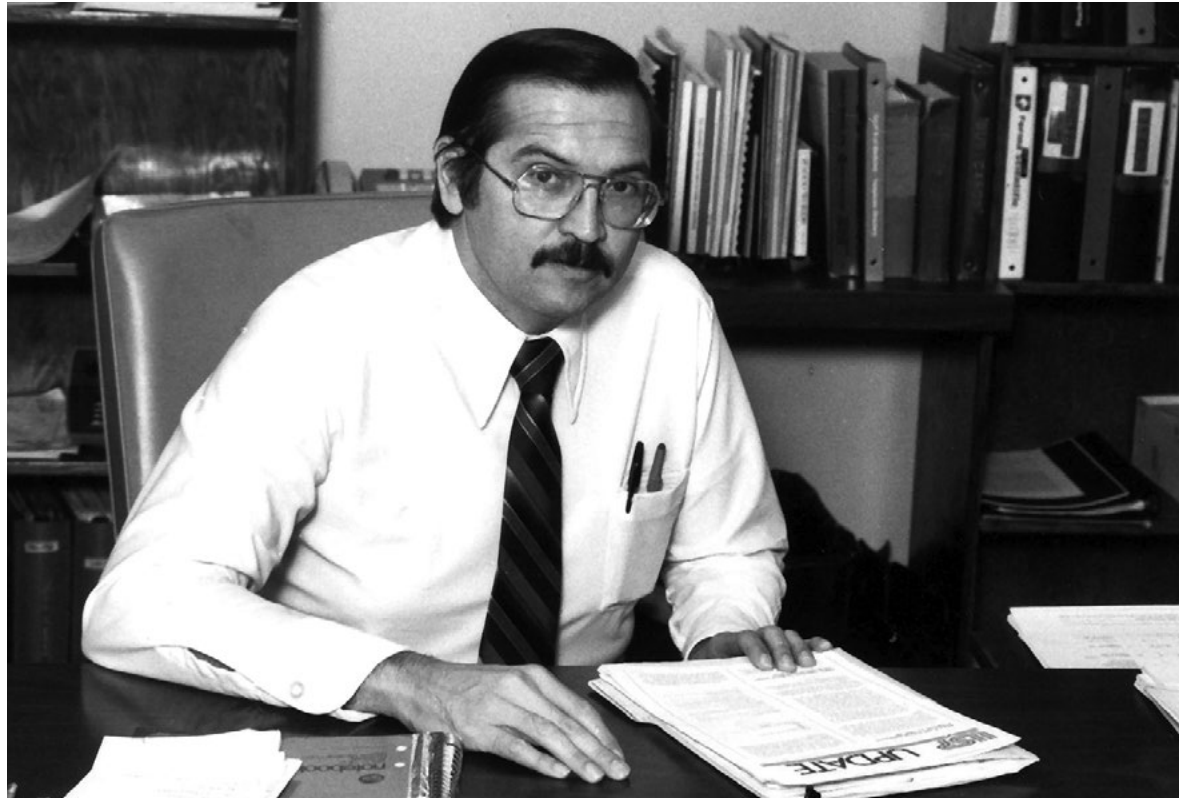
Hardy had received his undergraduate degree from Louisiana State University and had studied there under Cleanth Brooks. Brooks, a Southern literary giant, had coauthored with Robert Penn Warren an influential series of textbooks, including *Understanding Poetry* and *Understanding Fiction*. Hardy had stayed in touch with his old professor. "And so what does he do," Rush said, "but bring Brooks to our campus."

The visit caused quite a stir. Rush held a reception for Brooks at her house. "And, of course, we tried to put on the dog. We pulled out every stop." Lavish spreads of elaborately prepared food covered every surface.

During the height of the festivities, Brooks pulled Rush aside and said, "Since you are the hostess, do you suppose you could go back in the kitchen and get me a little biscuit with a little honey on it?"

Of course she could. "He didn't want any of that fancy stuff that we had out there." But it didn't go to waste, Rush said. "We all loved it."

College of Medicine Appeals to ‘Builders’



Dr. Samuel Strada believes USA's relatively young College of Medicine offers flexibility and opportunities for talented, eager students and professors.

In the battle for top teaching and researching talent at the University of South Alabama, Dr. Samuel J. Strada brings a unique approach.

“I have a completely different style of recruiting people than some of the other people have,” said the College of Medicine dean. “For example, I don’t bring people here with their spouses and everything on first visits. We don’t send them all over to schools, take them to the beach, all of these kinds of things. Because, to me, if they’re not interested in the position, then I don’t want them. It should be the position first — the opportunity it creates.”

USA, because of its relatively small size and youthful flexibility, actually offers more opportunities for eager, talented people than much larger, more celebrated medical schools do, Strada said. That’s been a selling point throughout the College of Medicine’s history.

“We’re still an institution where there are opportunities here for people to make an impact,” he said. “There are much more established places, more prestigious places, more entrenched places where you cannot have an impact because of the ‘we just don’t do it that way here’ kind of philosophy.”

Strada divides potential hires into two categories: builders and refiners. He prefers builders. “The people who have a building type of philosophy, they want to make a mark. They want to have an imprint. Those people tend to do a better job here.”

The result, even with the perfect pitchman, has been a product that’s been easy to sell. “I have not had any trouble recruiting people here, both when I was a departmental chair and as a dean.”

Dr. Samuel J. Strada

- Came to USA in 1983 as professor and chairman of pharmacology
- Became senior associate medical dean in 1994
- Became dean, USA College of Medicine, in 2005



“We’re still an institution where there are opportunities here for people to make an impact.”



Growth of a Health System



Throughout her career, Becky Tate has led many innovations across the USA Health System.

Below, this 1989 photo was used in a brochure for the University's health maintenance organization.

Becky S. Tate

- CEO, USA Health Services Foundation
- Came to USA in 1978 as assistant administrator, USA Medical Center Hospital
- From 1984 to 1999 was CEO of PrimeHealth of Alabama, a USA-affiliated health maintenance organization



"It was very exciting. Every day."

Fresh out of graduate school, with a newly minted degree in health care administration, Becky S. Tate became assistant administrator of the University of South Alabama Medical Center in 1978. USA had owned the hospital about eight years. She was just 25. The other assistant administrator was a year older. Their boss, Richard Threthaway, "wasn't more than five years older," Tate said.

"It was very exciting. Every day. It was a very good hospital. It was meeting a tremendous need in this community."

Initially, she was given the clinics and the emergency department to supervise. "And very quickly after that, all of the clinical departments at the hospital, the laboratory, the pharmacy, the radiology department."

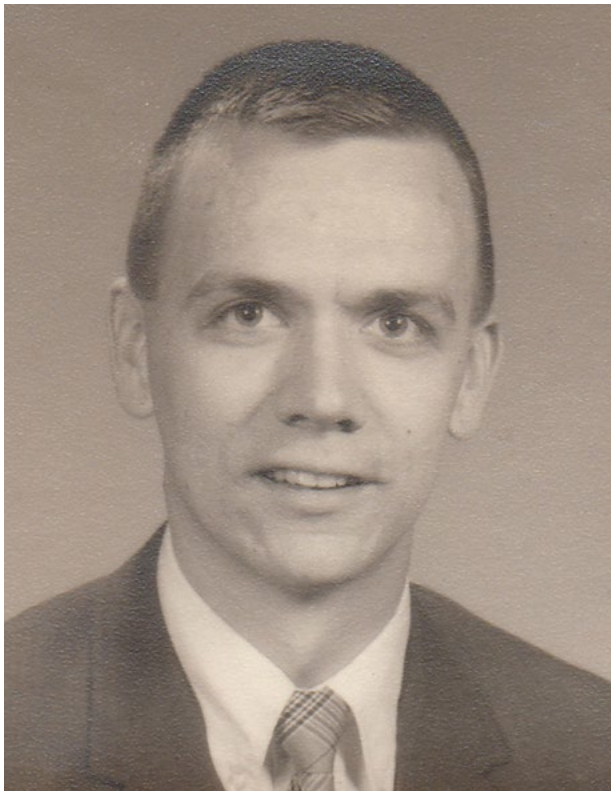
After six years, Dr. Fred Whiddon, the University president, asked Tate to take over PrimeHealth of Alabama, a health maintenance organization, "on an interim basis until they could determine what they wanted to do long term." She stayed for 15 years.

In 1999, she became chief executive officer of the USA Health Services Foundation. The foundation provides facilities in which USA medical faculty can operate their private practices. "We have 26 different clinics and 160 physicians, and I oversee the operations of those clinics." She said the clinics handle more than 200,000 patient visits a year.

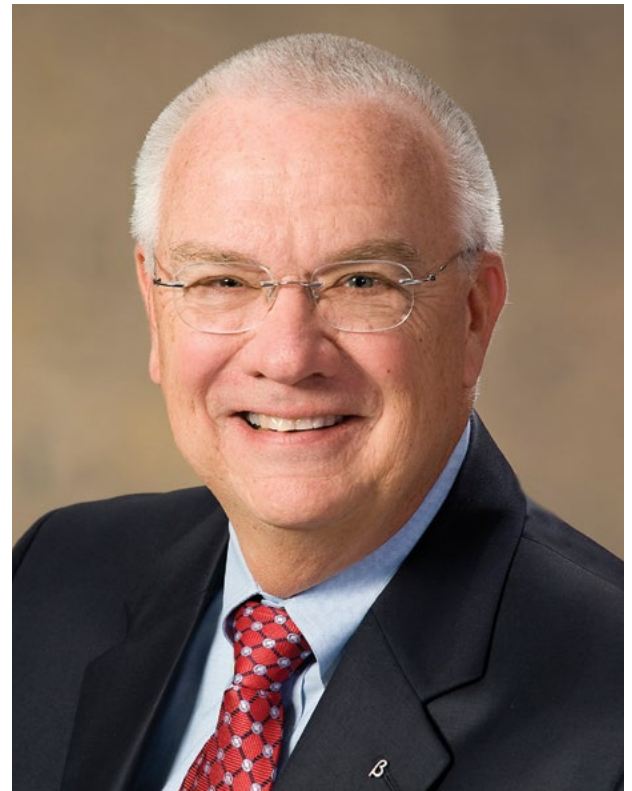
Among everything she has done at USA, Tate said, what's closest to her heart is her role in creating USA Children's & Women's Hospital. "We came up with the idea, Rick Threthaway and I and several other people at the University." In 1983, they turned the Medical Center hospital's third floor (obstetrics and gynecology) and fourth floor (pediatrics) into a "hospital within a hospital." In 1990, Children's & Women's moved into a home of its own, the former Doctors Hospital building off Spring Hill Avenue.

"I really feel very proud," Tate said, "of being involved in whatever role I played to help come up with it conceptually and see it taken and put into place."

Punch Cards, Square Dances and Parking Tickets



Hank Wells, shown here in 1967 and recently, remembers when a young Gordon Moulton was Wells' computer lab instructor. Photos courtesy of Hank Wells.



Working his way through school kept Hank Wells busy — really busy. “I worked on the weekends at the old Doctors Hospital,” he recalled. He was a lifeguard at the USA pool, and he taught an accounting lab class.

He worked at the University computer lab for Gordon Moulton, now University president but then one of Wells’ instructors. Wells did FORTRAN programming on 80-column punch cards, which he said was even less fun than it sounds. “And then I made some money calling square dances at night. There were several teen clubs in Mobile back then — square dance clubs.”

Times have definitely changed.

Still, Wells has remained friends with Moulton and has been active in fundraising for USA. He was on the leadership team for the University’s first capital campaign. “We set kind of a modest goal. I mean, in retrospect, it seems modest at \$75 million. But it was the first campaign ever, so it was still a challenge for us to raise that.” The team exceeded the challenge.

Wells almost missed his chance to be part of the first USA graduating class in 1967. Faculty members had the only paved parking lot. “Students had to park out in the woods on the grass. And I took offense at that because I felt like I was paying to go to school there, and the faculty were my employees. So I refused to park in the woods, and I parked in the faculty parking lot every day. And every day, I got a ticket.”

He ignored more than 300 parking tickets — until commencement neared, and he discovered that students weren’t allowed to graduate if they owed the University money. “I found out at the time to settle up fees and get my degree that I was going to lose that argument. And I did.” Wells laughed at the memory of his righteous indignation. “But I was convinced at the time that I was right.”

Hank Wells

- Member of the first USA graduating class, 1967; Bachelor of Science in accounting
- Retired after more than 40 years in health care management and consulting; lives in Hixson, Tenn.
- Since retirement has served on an interim basis as a deputy or associate dean at the University of Arizona and University of Missouri medical schools

“I parked in the faculty parking lot every day. And every day, I got a ticket.”



Big Dreams on a Dirt Road



Dr. Margaret Miller said small classes during the University's early years made it easy for professors to know their students. From left, Miller photo from the 1964-65 yearbook; Miller photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library; modern portrait.

The first time Dr. Margaret Miller visited the brand-new University of South Alabama campus, she drove out on Old Shell Road. "At some point," she said, "Old Shell Road became a dirt road. And then there was this one building standing on all this land out here."

It was a bit underwhelming. "But at the same time, it was exciting," Miller said. "To get in on the ground floor of something can be pretty exciting."

She arrived for the University's first fall quarter. "We had a fairly young faculty at that time," she said. Most of the professors were, like her, just a year or two out of graduate school. "We used to meet at night, because everybody was in class during the day, and we would make plans, you know: 'We're going to hire this and do this.'"

Founding President Dr. Fred Whiddon held an annual Christmas party at a country club for a few years. And each fall, he invited the faculty to a reception at his house to introduce new hires. "He had a beautiful place," Miller said.

She also fondly remembers the food that Whiddon would order for meetings from a lady named Velma, who ran the University coffee shop. "She made good chicken salad sandwiches." The lunch counter that was a fixture for years in the administration building was named for her.

Miller began her career teaching biology before moving into administration. "We had a lot of students who were older students back then. The school was there and available. The younger kids who were fresh out of high school, I guess, were still going to Alabama and Auburn."

Classes were small, including the laboratory sessions in the sciences. "And so we got to know a lot of our students well back then, as opposed to later, when the classes got bigger."

All in all, "It was an exciting time."

Dr. Margaret Miller

- Came to USA in 1964 as an assistant professor of biology; later acting chairwoman, department of biology
- Associate dean and acting dean, College of Arts and Sciences
- Retired in 2000

"To get in on the ground floor of something can be pretty exciting."

USA Takes Care of Business



In this 1970s photo are, from left, Dr. Carl Moore; Dr. Roy Kahn, associate dean of the College of Business; John Harbert of Harbert Construction in Birmingham; and Don Mosley, College of Business dean. Photo courtesy of Dr. Carl Moore.

Dr. Carl Moore knew from the moment he arrived in 1971 that the University of South Alabama valued its College of Business. “The business building had just been finished in 1970,” Moore said. “Clearly, back then, that was the state-of-the-art building on campus. And that certainly impressed me that they were going to take business seriously.”

In 1976, the college achieved national accreditation. “At that point, the College of Business was nine years old. We were one of the youngest colleges to be accredited nationally ever at that point in time.”

In the early 1970s, Moore said, the College of Business boosted its reputation when it contracted with International Paper Co. to provide management training for company supervisors nationwide. Eventually, “we worked with probably a dozen different paper companies around the country, from Washington state to Maine.”

The college recently established a doctoral program. “So now, we have 11 doctoral programs on campus,” Moore said. “When I came here there were none.”

He’s optimistic that growth will continue. For one thing, President Gordon Moulton has successfully emphasized fundraising. “In a public university, the difference between average and excellent is development,” Moore said. The Mitchell family, benefactor of, among many other things, the Mitchell College of Business, has especially made a difference.

And even after a half-century, he said, USA retains its entrepreneurial spirit. He cited as an example the business library. President Moulton gave the go-ahead if the college could raise most of the money itself. “And 18 months later, we opened that building,” Moore said.

Moore is surprised when perceptions haven’t caught up with USA’s status as a “comprehensive, major university by almost any way you’d like to measure it,” he said. “I still have people come out, and I give them a tour of campus, and they’re from Mobile, and at the end, the comment is always, ‘I had no idea.’”

Dr. Carl Moore

- Came to USA in 1971
- Hired as assistant professor of management and first director of what is now the Center for Business and Economic Research
- In 1989, became dean of the Mitchell College of Business



“Now we have 11 doctoral programs on campus. When I came here there were none.”



Continuing a Tradition in ‘Grand Style’



Dr. Joaquin M. Holloway Jr., in front of the University library, chairs the Senior Faculty Caucus, an organization of current and former faculty members.

Bottom photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Dr. Joaquin M. Holloway Jr.

- Came to USA in 1969 as the first director of the Instructional Media Center
- Beginning 1981, also taught in the College of Business and Management Studies
- Retired in 1998; chairman of the Senior Faculty Caucus



“And soon after that, there’d be a building erected in that general space.”

Shortly after he arrived at the University of South Alabama, Dr. Joaquin M. Holloway Jr. learned to recognize the signs that President Dr. Fred Whiddon was planning something.

“When we would walk around on the campus, which was basically laid out as it still is, we would see Dr. Whiddon standing with some of the other members of the staff, pointing in various directions. And soon after that, there’d be a building erected in that general space.”

Lots of buildings have been erected in the decades since. “I think what he started has been continued in a grand style,” Holloway said.

There were some false starts along the way. For example, the current jaguar sculpture, representing the University’s Jaguars athletic teams, in front of the Mitchell Center had a predecessor. In the late 1960s, a live jaguar named Mischka lived in front of the health, physical education and leisure studies building. “But then those people who were animal-rights advocates didn’t think that was a kind thing to have this animal caged,” Holloway said. (Also, Mischka escaped once.)

As director of the Instructional Media Center, housed in the library, Holloway had to introduce students and faculty to new technologies. He said the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences told him, “Well, Joaquin, I think to some extent your job is going to be one of public relations.”

Holloway replied, “Well, actually, I think my job is going to be one of anxiety reduction,’ because people tend to be anxious about things they are unfamiliar with.”

Today, Holloway chairs the Senior Faculty Caucus, an organization of current and former faculty members who have spent at least 15 years at USA. The caucus gathers annually for a Christmas party. “It’s just a good chance for us to kind of rehash old experiences that we had from the early days of the University.”

‘Wild and Crazy’ Worked for His Students



Dr. Paul Helminger, shown here to the right of Dr. F. Neff Weber in this 1970s photo, created demonstrations to promote an interest in physics among USA students and high schoolers across the region. Photo courtesy of Paul Helminger.

When you’re a teacher, said Dr. Paul Helminger, “You have to be a performer and make the subject interesting.”

Helminger retired in 2012 as a professor of physics after 39 years at the University of South Alabama. Making the subject interesting is “a little easier in physics because I can bring in some of what I call gee-whiz demonstrations and be a little wild and crazy.”

Things got especially wild and crazy when Helminger and USA colleague Dr. F. Neff Weber put together their Physics Is Fundamental road show, which logged 67 performances, mostly in high schools and middle schools. It operated from 1988 until superseded by the state-funded Alabama Science in Motion program in 1994. Physics Is Fundamental featured, among other flamboyant demonstrations of physics principles, Helminger driving a fire-extinguisher-powered rocket car and Weber lying sandwiched between beds of nails topped by a concrete block while Helminger whacked the block with a sledgehammer.

These shenanigans had two purposes: Get kids interested in physics, and increase ties between the University and its community.

“It’s interesting how much more respected locally the University has become in recent years compared to what it was initially,” Helminger said. “We didn’t maybe get the top students from the top schools here (in Mobile) when the University was first founded. But we’re seeing a lot more of those come to the University now.”

USA has built loyalty gradually, partly by giving local students educational opportunities they might otherwise not have had. “A lot of the early students were among the first in their families ever to go to a university,” Helminger said.

As the number of graduates has increased over the years, he said, “it’s been gratifying to me to see the alumni association growing in strength and stature.”

And, Helminger said, “I think the development of the football program recently is bringing more and more of the community behind the University.”

Dr. Paul Helminger

- Came to USA in 1973
- Professor of physics; retired in 2012
- Directed physics department’s Alabama Science in Motion program, which takes lab experiments to high schools via vans



“A lot of the early students were among the first in their families ever to go to a university.”



A Perfect Fit for the Community



Dr. Woody Hannum and his colleagues often offered night classes that catered to the needs of nontraditional students.

Bottom photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Dr. Woody Hannum

- Came to USA in 1970 to teach British history
- Was associate dean, School of Continuing Education, and associate professor of history
- Retired in 2010; still teaches a couple of courses each semester



“It didn’t matter where I went; I saw University faculty.”

The University of South Alabama influences the community it serves in many ways, some of them not so obvious. For example, how much of Mobile’s historic housing stock owes its continued existence to the influx of professors and students interested in history and preservation?

“My wife and I are sort of an illustration of that,” said Dr. Woody Hannum. “We moved into our house in 1974, when it was a very marginal property. Most people said, ‘Why in the world are you going down there?’”

Hannum said he has been active in several community organizations over the years. “Often, I would go various places to speak to the boards of groups or to church groups or something. It didn’t matter where I went; I saw University faculty. So I would say that the University’s presence has brought people here who have contributed to the community in a wide range of ways.”

Farther afield, without USA, “The Arizona Diamondbacks wouldn’t have won the World Series,” Hannum said, “because they wouldn’t have had Luis Gonzalez batting in the bottom of the ninth.” Gonzalez, who played college baseball at USA, singled home the winning run for the Diamondbacks in the 2001 World Series.

Academically, “I would say that one of the threads in the continued development of the school was that it was responsive to students,” Hannum said. “Almost from the beginning there were regular night classes” — many of them taught by professors from the University’s academic departments rather than night-class adjunct faculty.

That sometimes made for extra work, but teachers also enjoyed extraordinary freedom to introduce new programs or other ventures. “You could do almost anything you wanted to do,” Hannum said, “as long as you could figure out a way to pay for it.”

Valuing the Art of Diversity



From left, James E. Kennedy and Dr. James Conlon, then chairman of the art department, photographed art around the country and captured the images on slides for study. Here they are in the early 1970s. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Shortly after the dawn of the 1970s, James E. Kennedy and art department Chairman Dr. James Conlon were talking about the racial turmoil on college campuses. If a university were truly forward-thinking, they thought, it would create an African-American studies program.

The arts and sciences dean, Dr. Wally Kaempfer, approved. Kennedy would teach a course in African-American art and African art. But to study art, you need to see it, and few professionally made images of African-American art were accessible for academic use.

The art department chairman at Howard University in Washington, D.C., offered to let Kennedy and Conlon photograph Howard's art collection. "I mentioned to the dean that this chairman from Howard University had mentioned we could stop by there," Kennedy said. "He said, 'How soon can you leave?' I said, 'Huh?' So Conlon and I hopped a plane in the next couple of days, and we went to Washington, D.C., and we photographed these artworks."

Thus began a multiyear project. Conlon and Kennedy traveled the country, eventually photographing not only African-American but also Hispanic and Native American art.

"We wound up with the largest ethnic American art slide collection in existence in America," Kennedy said. "And we made these available to other colleges and institutions and individuals who needed them." The National Archives in Washington also contacted Conlon and Kennedy. "They said, 'Hey, we've got to have a copy of these things because this should be a part of the American story.'"

The collection was, he said, "certainly one of the first projects from this University of national significance. In some cases international, because we were contacted by the minister of culture in France and one or two other dignitaries about sharing what we had with them."

James E. Kennedy

- Came to USA in 1968 as art instructor
- Art department chairman from 1978 until 1994
- Retired in 1997 but taught part time until 2000; professor emeritus of art and art history



"This should be a part of the American story."



USA Professionalizes Law Enforcement



Newly elected Mobile County Sheriff Tom Purvis, center, shakes hands with a supporter as Dr. Robert Van Barrow stands to the right of Purvis in this 1974 photo. Barrow, who taught criminal justice, trained his students to be professional members of law enforcement. Photo courtesy of Dr. Robert Van Barrow.

Dr. Robert Van Barrow

- Came to USA in 1966 as an assistant professor of political science; concentrated on criminal justice
- Chairman of department of political science and criminal justice, 1988-98
- Became professor emeritus in 1998; continued to direct the department's internship program



"I don't really know many other situations where things would fall into place to allow a professor to see the product of his efforts over the years come to such full fruition."

Dr. Robert Van Barrow has seen his students make Alabama better. At the University of South Alabama, he spearheaded criminal-justice education, aiming "to professionalize law enforcement."

The idea is to give criminal-justice professionals a broad education, not just training in law enforcement techniques. Barrow traveled around the state, asking chiefs of police, corrections officers and others in the field what they needed from the University. One small-town chief, whose schooling ended in elementary school, said, "I'd like to have a well-educated person. I don't have to have them trained. I will do the training."

The chief described his own initial training. "His chief gave him a copy of the Ten Commandments and a pistol, and he said, 'Go enforce these rules with this,'" Dr. Barrow said. "We've come a long way since that time."

The Mobile Police Department was quick to embrace the idea, implemented in the 1980s, of national accreditation for meeting "basic standards of criminal justice as a profession," Barrow said. "That was accomplished, I think, in no small part because of some of the people that went from our program into the Police Department."

The criminal-justice program's strong ties to working professionals have paid off in many ways. Barrow said he would ask county probate judges within 100 miles of Mobile to send two of their best high school students to study criminal justice at USA, with the University arranging tuition assistance.

"The judges got mileage out of it because they could claim that they were helping the student get a college education," Dr. Barrow said. In turn, the judges lobbied to keep USA funded. "If they found out that my program was in trouble, they said, 'What do we need to do? You write the letter; I'll sign it.'"

USA criminal-justice graduates have become police chiefs, prosecutors, judges — and conscientious, hard-working officers and deputies. "I don't really know many other situations," Dr. Barrow said, "where things would fall into place to allow a professor to see the product of his efforts over the years come to such full fruition."

Culture and Arts Make Notable Strides



In his long career at USA, Dr. Jerry Bush has seen campus facilities improve dramatically.

Bottom photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

In more than 40 years at the University of South Alabama, Dr. Jerry Alan Bush has progressed from being the 23-year-old baby of the music faculty to being the senior member by more than 20 years. In that time, he said, the facilities have improved dramatically.

When he started, Bush said, the music department was in the windowless basement of the administration building. “I used to ask students whether it was raining when I was ready to come up out of the ground,” he said. A move to Faculty Court East brought the opposite problem: too much interaction with nature. The studios opened to the outdoors. “All the humidity — and there’s plenty of it around here — was affecting the pianos.”

The department’s current home, the state-of-the-art Laidlaw Performing Arts Center, was completed in 1998. “It’s an outstanding facility,” Bush said.

Wherever the department happened to be, “We did produce,” Bush said. His students have accumulated some 740 awards and honors in competitive events. And “the administration, where I am concerned, has been extremely supportive. In fact, in all the time I have been here, I don’t think anybody’s ever said no to anything.

“The institution has been not only agreeable but encouraging of the traveling and the adjudication and the performances and the master classes. I very much appreciate that.”

Bush has fond memories of the first days in the department of music, but he also appreciates the benefits to the arts afforded by the modern University of South Alabama.

Over the years, Bush has respected the role of the music of the past but has also championed and performed new music, including compositions by USA colleague David Durant and former colleague Owen Middleton. “Historically, music has ignored its present and venerated its past,” Bush said. But audiences forget that “everything was contemporary once.”

So he performs both old and new and “wouldn’t know where to begin” listing favorite composers. “I like all of it. I wouldn’t have played it if I didn’t.”

Dr. Jerry Alan Bush

- Came to USA in 1971 as an instructor in music; now professor of music and head of the piano faculty
- Named USA Dean’s Lecturer in 1986 and Outstanding Professor in 1989
- Has performed classical and contemporary music extensively in Mobile and elsewhere, including the Library of Congress in Washington and Carnegie Hall in New York



“The institution has been not only agreeable but encouraging.”



Callahan Proud of Mobile's 'Jewel'



Sonny Callahan, center, used his political skills to help the University grow. Standing with Callahan are, from left, Dr. Stanley Crawford, then vice president for medical affairs; Dr. Brad Davis, the current chairman of biomedical sciences in the Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health Professions; former U.S. Sen. Trent Lott of Mississippi; and President Gordon Moulton. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Sonny Callahan

- Member of the Alabama House of Representatives, 1970-78; member of the Alabama Senate, 1978-82
- Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, 1985-2003
- Heads the lobbying firm Sonny Callahan and Associates LLC



“Believe it or not, politics made this possible.”

Sonny Callahan remembers the 1972 groundbreaking for the University of South Alabama Medical Sciences Building. As a member of the Alabama House, he had helped secure funding for the new College of Medicine. Other guests included Pierre Pelham, president pro tem of the Alabama Senate.

“They invited some of us to come and to be a part of that groundbreaking ceremony,” Callahan said, “and Sen. Pelham rightfully said, ‘Believe it or not, politics made this possible.’”

Political power helped shepherd USA through its formative years. “Back then,” Callahan said, “the University of South Alabama didn’t have the economic impact it has today. They were just getting started. So they were dependent upon two things: tuition from their students and support from the state.”

In the early 1970s, two of the most powerful members of the Alabama Legislature came from Mobile County: Pelham in the Senate and Sage Lyons, speaker of the House. “We had some people in very responsible positions that were able to give us the capability of getting the necessary money to get this institution started,” Callahan said.

It was, he said, money well spent. For example, he said, the University has played a pivotal role in bringing such industrial facilities as the Austal shipyard and the ThyssenKrupp steel plant to south Alabama. “That was a tremendous selling point for us to say, ‘Look, we have a major university located right in Mobile, and our tuitions are very, very low comparatively to the rest of the nation. We have this jewel sitting here right at your disposal. We can educate your employees. We can educate your children. So come to south Alabama.’”

Callahan predicted that USA will also become a formidable force in another arena: football. “There’ll come a day when this rivalry between the three major universities in the state of Alabama will be just like the Iron Bowl, except South Alabama will be in the mix. I might call it the Steel Bowl.”

Life Lessons in Economics



Shown here with students in the 1970s, Dr. Semoon Chang put his skills to work in the classroom and the community. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Dr. Semoon Chang specializes in economic-impact studies. So he knows the fiscal effect of the University of South Alabama. “When it comes to a dollar impact, there’s just no question: There’s a huge impact here.”

But he’s also noticed a noneconomic indicator of the community’s pride in the University. “When you say ‘USA,’ many people think of the United States of America. Not here. Here, when you say ‘USA,’ that’s the University of South Alabama.”

He’s proud, too. In fact, he and his wife created the Semoon & Youngshin Chang Endowed Award for Humanitarian Services, which goes to one faculty member each year. “We are not millionaires or anything,” Chang said. “But I think the University has done so much, my wife and I talked about how we should pay back.”

Chang has been president of the Homeless Coalition of Mobile (now Housing First Inc.), president of the planning division for human services of United Way of Southwest Alabama and general chairman of Mobile United, a problem-solving group of Mobile community leaders.

Through his Center for Business and Economic Research, he has assisted businesses large and small. Therefore, “I know pretty much how things work in reality.” Those consulting jobs have led to dozens of articles in scholarly journals, as well as frequent calls from local government and media.

The University pays for one student assistant and allows a one-course reduction in Chang’s teaching load but otherwise does not provide financial support for the center. “We run like a private business. If we don’t do a good job, we’re out. ... And I like it that way.”

Chang tells his students that economics lessons can be learned from simple, everyday occurrences. For example, he said, a napkin on the floor can forecast the potential success of a restaurant. “All I do is watch whether the waitresses and waiters pick it up,” Dr. Chang said. “You have to be the kind of people who will pick it up even if nobody’s watching you.”

Dr. Semoon Chang

- Came to USA in 1972; Professor of the Year, 1979-80
- Professor of economics; director, Center for Business and Economic Research
- Established with his wife the Semoon & Youngshin Chang Endowed Award for Humanitarian Services



“Here, when you say ‘USA,’ that’s the University of South Alabama.”



Meeting the Demand for Higher Education



Daisy Keeton said the University's explosive growth after it opened can be attributed to pent-up demand for public higher education in the region.

Daisy Keeton

- Came to USA in 1966
- Secretary to Dr. Blanche Cox, associate dean of students
- Retired in 1979; later worked with Elderhostel at USA

"I was just in love with the University of South Alabama because it gave me a place to use my talents."

When her son reached junior high school, Daisy Keeton decided to go back to work. So she walked over to the University of South Alabama, a few blocks from her house, and applied to be secretary to Dr. Blanche Cox, newly hired assistant dean of students.

"She interviewed me for the job in her office," Keeton said. "And we took a liking to each other. Then her jobs increased. President Whiddon gave her oversight of forming honor societies and of watching over the sororities. And so we had a lot of fun in getting those things started."

Cox eventually retired as associate dean of students in 1977.

Keeton said Dr. Fred Whiddon, the University's first president, took every opportunity to acquire assets he thought would help the University, especially if they were discounted — or free. One example: downtown Mobile's Saenger Theatre, saved from demolition when the University procured it from a private owner in the early 1970s. USA fixed up the faded movie showplace for its theater department, ensuring the building's preservation until the city bought it from the University in 1999.

USA grew so explosively in its early years because of pent-up demand in south Alabama for higher education, Keeton said. People who had attended local two-year colleges "were just waiting for something like this," she said. "They saw an opportunity to live at home and continue the jobs they had already begun, and finish their education, too."

That made for a dedicated and hard-working student body, she said. "We had a lot of what I'd say were adult people who came, and not just high school boys and girls."

Keeton remembers USA with great fondness. "I was just in love with the University of South Alabama because it gave me a place to use my talents," she said. It also gave her access to plays, concerts and other artistic events. "I'd love to be working in the school again."

Alumni Couple Shares Love of University



Dr. Steven Stokes, second from right, and his wife, Angelia, third from right, are pictured here at the dedication of Stokes Hall in spring 2012. The exterior of Stokes Hall is shown below.

Dr. Steven Stokes and Angelia Stokes remember their days as USA students fondly, from their house in Hillsdale to surviving Hurricane Frederic. They credit their experiences as students at the University of South Alabama with the foundation for the professional success they have enjoyed during their careers.

“The thing that makes South Alabama unique is it gives common people an opportunity to be successful,” said Stokes, a 1980 College of Medicine graduate. “My wife and I are both from very humble backgrounds, and the University gave us an opportunity that allowed us to go on in life and be successful. And we want to turn around and give back to the University so other kids will have the same opportunity.”

To date, Dr. Stokes and Mrs. Stokes, who received her undergraduate degree in business in 1979, have given more back to the University than any other alumni couple in history.

Over the years, the Stokeses are responsible for gifts of \$2.75 million, including matching funds. One of their lasting influences will be the Angelia and Steven H. Stokes Center for Creative Writing, and, most recently, the Stokeses donated \$250,000 to create the Environmental Resiliency Center: An Interdisciplinary Research Program.

“You know, South Alabama has been wonderful to my wife and me,” Stokes said. “It’s just been a great opportunity to go back to campus and see the tremendous advances the University has made.”

As a member of the USA Board of Trustees and a former chairman of the school board in Dothan, Ala., he holds education in high regard.

“South Alabama is going to be a stimulus for the entire Gulf Coast, all the way over into Mississippi, all the way into the Panhandle of Florida. That entire area’s going to benefit if South Alabama succeeds.”

Both Dr. and Mrs. Stokes have helped achieve that growth through their generous gifts to the University and the time and energy they have devoted to their alma mater over the years. Stokes Hall, a new residence hall, is named in their honor. And in December 2012, they watched as their youngest son, Steven, graduated with a USA degree in geology, carrying the Stokes legacy at USA to the next generation.

Dr. Steven Stokes

- Came to USA as a medical student in 1976; M.D. in 1980
- Appointed to USA Board of Trustees in 1993; first alumnus to serve as chairman pro tempore 2007-2010
- Radiation oncologist in hometown of Dothan, Ala.; Marine Corps veteran



“South Alabama is going to be a stimulus for the entire Gulf Coast.”



Early Offices and Computers Short on Storage



Dr. Herbert E. Longenecker Jr., shown here in this 1980s photo, was an early proponent of technology and shared his knowledge with students in the classroom and the community through workshops. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Dr. Herbert E. Longenecker Jr.

- Came to USA in 1972 in neurosciences; also worked in pharmacology
- Switched to computer science in 1980
- Now professor of information systems, School of Computing



"I had the fume hood as my office."

When he arrived at the University of South Alabama to work under Dr. Lowell White in neuroscience, said Dr. Herbert E. Longenecker Jr., "Our first office area was in the biology building. Not in the upper floors but downstairs in the warehouse. I had the fume hood as my office. Dr. White had the equivalent on the other side."

Longenecker had worked in biophysics, chemistry and pharmacology, but he had been fascinated with computers since the early 1960s. Shortly after the College of Medicine opened in January 1973, it bought a computer. "People wanted to process words," Longenecker said. "So we wrote a program called Type. And Type we used to process words for the College of Medicine."

And not just the College of Medicine. "We made word processing available for all the people on the campus" — using a machine with 8,000 bytes of memory. "It was a Varian computer," Longenecker said. "It had two discs, five megs each. Five megs. It had two tape drives, and it had 8K of memory. Our 'virtual tape storage mechanism' involved two secretaries sitting in the middle of the two tape drives." The secretaries used the tape drives to upload and download files. "We were able to manage several gigabytes of storage with that mechanism and provided word processing until we got PCs, eventually, a decade later."

Longenecker and his colleagues learned to be "halfway decent software engineers." He teamed with others at USA to write highly successful software for the Mobile County court system and other outside entities. The Mobile water system used their original billing software from 1982 until 2011.

"Most software engineers deal with people as an abstraction," Longenecker said. "I deal with people directly. I'm going to listen to you and see what it is you really want to do and see how you collectively as a group of people want to work together. It takes a little longer, but by golly, everybody has buy-in by the end of the project. And that's why our systems have run so long."

USA Gets Athletics and Eddie Stanky



From left, Dr. Mel Lucas, Eddie Stanky, E.B. Peebles Jr. and Dr. Fred Whiddon meet at the announcement of Stanky as the new baseball coach. Lucas knew athletics was a way to garner attention for the young university. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

When Dr. Mel Lucas arrived in the fall of 1964 to run the athletics department at the University of South Alabama, he was supposed to have a year to recruit players. That changed after a November 1964 lobbying trip to Montgomery with University President Dr. Fred Whiddon.

As they talked with legislators, someone else walked up and flashed Alabama-Auburn football tickets. The legislators gave the newcomer their full attention, abandoning Whiddon.

“He turned to me, and he said, ‘This is not going to happen to me ever again,’” Lucas recalled. “He said, ‘Let’s get us some teams going.’”

The following spring, Lucas coached a makeshift baseball team to a 3-12 record. By 1969, athletics had grown tremendously. Lucas needed to relinquish coaching and concentrate on administration. He happened to know former major league all-star Eddie Stanky, known as “The Brat” for his feistiness. Stanky was available after seven years as a big-league manager.

“I said, ‘Eddie, would you be interested in doing anything in the colleges?’”

They negotiated a tentative deal. Whiddon was skeptical at first — “He doesn’t have a Ph.D.,” he said — but approved the hire.

Lucas told him, “‘Tomorrow, put on a blue shirt.’ He said, ‘A blue shirt?’ I said, ‘Yeah. You’re going to be on national TV.’”

The next day’s news conference was a bombshell. The famous Eddie Stanky was coming to an unknown 5-year-old university. Calls flooded in to Whiddon’s office.

“He was impressed,” Lucas said. “He said he always knew athletics could bring you something, but he didn’t know it would be that much.”

Dr. Mel Lucas

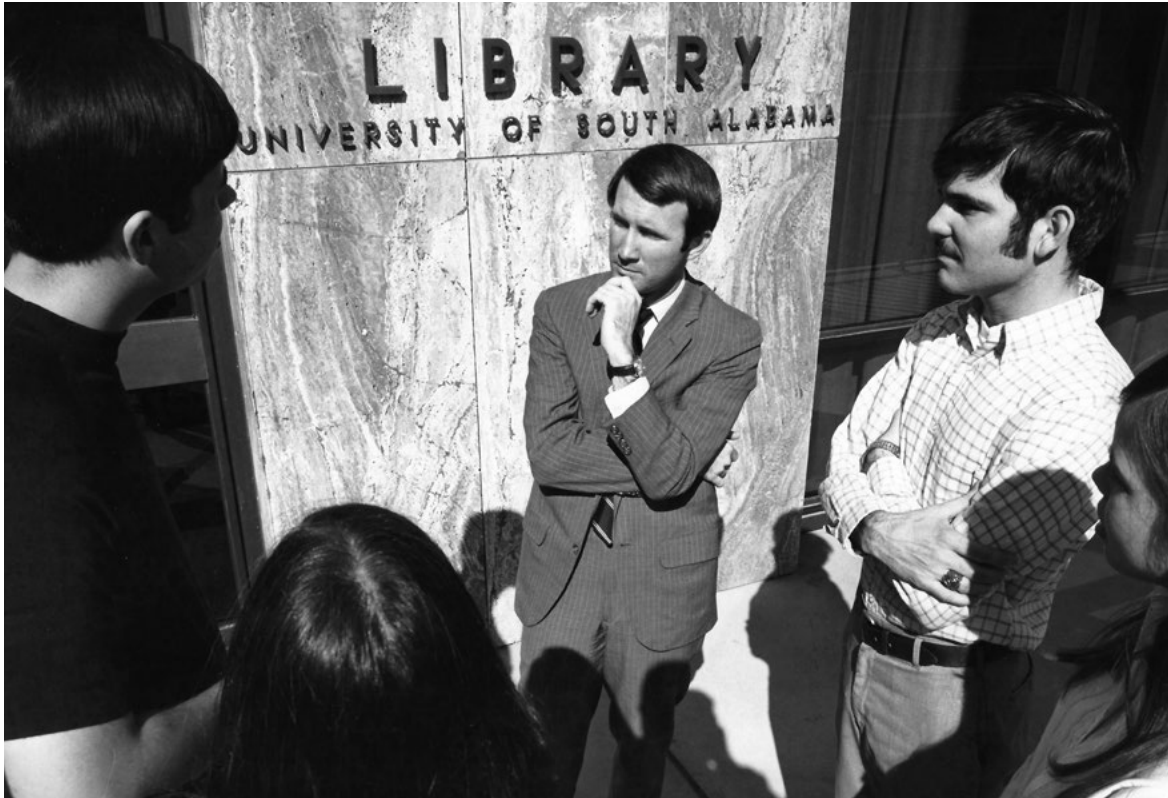
- Hired in fall 1964 as one of USA’s first full-time employees
- First athletic director and baseball coach
- Later ran the USA Springhill campus for 14 years before retiring in 1996



“Tomorrow, put on a blue shirt. ... You’re going to be on national TV.”



The Anatomy of Medical School Funding



William L. Roberts speaks to students and campaign staff on the USA campus during his 1970 campaign for the Alabama House of Representatives. Photo courtesy of William L. Roberts.

William L. Roberts

- Former Alabama state representative, 1970-74; state senator, 1974-78
- Helped secure funding for the USA College of Medicine
- Chairman of the Mobile County Foundation for Higher Education, which administers a USA scholarship fund



“I have an Auburn degree and a University of South Alabama education.”

Helping gain approval in 1971 for a \$10 million bond issue that got the University of South Alabama College of Medicine off the ground ranks among Bill Roberts’ proudest achievements.

“That piece of legislation is one of the most important to me in terms of me having the opportunity to participate in building this med school,” said Roberts, who was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives the year before.

The Legislature had authorized the medical school in 1969 but hadn’t provided funding. With the University of Alabama School of Medicine already established at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, “some legislators thought that Alabama did not need two medical schools,” Roberts said.

Mobile-area voters thought otherwise. “There was a great deal of public support,” Roberts said. “I think time has proven that the contributions of both the University and the med school have been more beneficial than even any of us could have imagined them to be.”

Roberts, who runs a long-term rehabilitation and nursing company in Mobile, is chairman of the Mobile County Foundation for Higher Education, the entity that was instrumental in the University’s founding five decades ago. The foundation continues to support higher education and health care in the Mobile region.

During his own college days, Roberts earned a business administration degree from Auburn, then came home to Mobile and pursued postgraduate studies in history at USA. “So I was able to go around to civic clubs and various speaking engagements and say that I had the best of both worlds,” he said. “I have an Auburn degree and a University of South Alabama education.”

Early Student Treasures Career with USA



From left, Maxey Roberts; Dr. Jeral Williams, a former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and vice president for academic affairs; former U.S. Rep. Sonny Callahan; and former U.S. Sen. Trent Lott of Mississippi stand in the USA president's office. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

After receiving her history degree in just three years at the University of South Alabama, Maxey Roberts left her native city. But not for long. She acquired a law degree in Mississippi, then returned to Mobile to become the attorney for USA, which was just 10 years old at the time.

Roberts relished her undergraduate experience. “When I was a junior, we had classes of maybe seven or eight people. It was more like a graduate seminar, really. The faculty were just superb and spent a lot of time with students.”

When she returned as USA attorney, she quickly became part of the inner strategic circle. “There are always legal aspects to anything — to any project, to any plan. And so I was fortunate enough to be able to be involved in those.”

It was an exciting time. “It truly was a team approach, and everyone had a shared mission,” Roberts said. “And I think that sense of oneness and team approach became part of the culture of the University.”

In 1998, she moved to the USA Foundation, which is “solely organized to support the University of South Alabama and its mission.” She became the Foundation’s managing director in 2003.

The Foundation funds scholarships, professorships, lectureships and the like. Also, the University periodically seeks money for projects. “Sometimes we can fund them in whole or in part,” Roberts said. “Or we will fund them for so many years with the idea that at that point in time we’ll either decide to continue to fund them or the University may have been able to obtain other funding.”

All in all, she said, “I think we work well together.”

“The University is just a great place,” Roberts said. “There is a richness that the University has added, and it’s through people. The University is people. The buildings are wonderful, and the landscape and the 1,200 acres are wonderful, but if we didn’t have the people, it really wouldn’t matter, would it?”

Maxey Roberts

- Came to USA as a student in 1968; graduated in 1971 with a bachelor’s degree in history; graduated from University of Mississippi School of Law in 1974
- Returned to USA as University attorney, 1974-1998
- Managing director of USA Foundation since 2003; started at the Foundation as general counsel in 1998



“It truly was a team approach, and everyone had a shared mission.”



Geography Across the Generations



For 40 years, Dr. Glenn Sebastian taught generations of students a love of earth sciences.

Bottom photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Dr. Glenn Sebastian

- Came to USA in 1967
- Geographer; chairman of earth sciences for 25 years
- Retired in 2006; became professor emeritus; campus trail renamed Glenn Sebastian Nature Trail



“She said, ‘You taught my grandfather.’”

A couple of years ago, a young woman told Dr. Glenn Sebastian how delighted she was to be in his class. Sebastian retired from the University of South Alabama department of earth sciences in 2006 but has continued teaching one class every semester.

Sebastian assumed she must love earth sciences, but she responded, “Oh, no, not at all.”

“And so I said, ‘Well, why are you so happy to be in this class?’ And that’s when she said, ‘You taught my grandfather.’”

Sebastian tells the story with self-deprecating glee. In truth, he has left memorable impressions on thousands of students. Quite a few stay in touch. “I got a picture not too long ago from a former student of mine who was in Hawaii at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, and he had this picture of me from the University.” The ex-student e-mailed the photo of himself on Mount Kilauea holding his professor’s picture and added a message: “Sebastian, I was thinking of you.”

The geographer takes every opportunity to share his passion for his subject. Sebastian took generations of elementary and middle school students on field trips along a campus nature trail that the University eventually named for him.

If his class includes any student athletes, he checks their away-game schedules in search of teaching opportunities. “For example,” he said, “when I find out that they’re going to Western Kentucky, I always get them aside and say, ‘Now, whatever you do, if you have any free time, instead of going to the mall and walking around, go to Mammoth Cave National Park.’”

His fond recollections of his time at the University extend beyond the classroom. “The cafeteria food was extraordinary,” he said. A Greek chef named Pete Zitsos ran the kitchen early on. “On Sundays after church, people would come here to eat.”

Sebastian enjoys semiretirement, but he likes to “talk shop” with his old colleagues. “When my wife says, ‘Don’t you think you ought to go to Home Depot for a few hours?’ then I know I’d better go in and talk shop.”

Early Graduate Lands a Job at Alma Mater



Nancy Hentschel Seibt, to the right of Gov. George Wallace, attends a building dedication in the mid-1960s. Photo courtesy of Nancy Hentschel Seibt.

After attending the University of Alabama for a year, accounting student Nancy Seibt, then Nancy Hentschel, transferred to the University of South Alabama. She also, starting the summer before enrolling, worked part time for Marjorie Meador Foster, the registrar. “At that time, the registrar didn’t just register for classes,” Seibt said. “She also kept up with grades and did a lot of things that there are multiple departments to do now.”

With USA then consisting of one building, Seibt recalled, the workplace was so intimate that University employees would bring an ingredient — lettuce, tomatoes, dressing, spices — each Friday for a communal salad.

Dr. Fred Whiddon was the University president. His budget chief was Dr. Franklyn Sweet, the dean of administration. “Dr. Sweet spent money very carefully,” Seibt said.

When Whiddon decided the University needed a “company vehicle,” he delegated the purchase to Sweet. “Dr. Sweet ordered a Checker cab,” Seibt said. “It was painted this hospital green color. It stayed around a long time, and nobody wanted to drive it. It was horrible to look at. And not comfortable.”

In her accounting classes, Seibt said, “I think I was the only female.” Her studies allowed her to work during the day. “Most of my classes in that field were at night, and in related fields, such as law, because the instructors were from the business community here. So I had a lot of CPAs and attorneys teaching my classes.”

As graduation neared, the accounting students worried that employers might not value a degree from a brand-new university. “But at that time there were eight national accounting firms,” Seibt said, “and five of them came to do interviews here. And we all had multiple offers from those people. So we were well-received.”

Nancy Hentschel Seibt

- Came to USA in summer 1964 to work in the registrar’s office; transferred to USA from the University of Alabama as a student that fall
- Received a degree in accounting as part of the first graduating class in 1967
- Returned to USA during the 1972-73 academic year as comptroller; stayed six years; later became chief financial officer for Gulf Coast Trucking Equipment Co. in Mobile



“We all had multiple offers.”



USA Becomes a Big Fish in Marine Sciences

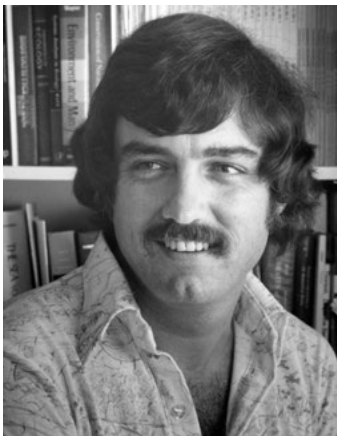


Dr. Bob Shipp weighs a fish during the 79th annual Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo in 2012. Shipp has brought much attention to USA and its research through the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. Photo courtesy of the Press-Register.

Bottom photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Dr. Bob Shipp

- Came to USA in 1971
- Chairman and professor, department of marine sciences
- Active marine researcher, focusing on resource management



“There’s no doubt that the Dauphin Island Sea Lab and the University of South Alabama are recognized as premier marine science institutions.”

For a guy who proclaims “I love fish,” Dr. Bob Shipp has a dream job: chairman of the University of South Alabama department of marine sciences.

What began as a handful of courses grew into a biology master’s program with an emphasis on marine biology. Marine sciences is now one of the University’s signature departments, with about 50 master’s and Ph.D. students, as well as an international reputation.

USA is known for being one of the go-to academic programs related to the understanding and protection of marine life and resources of the upper Gulf Coast. It has trained hundreds of people to work in academe, government and industry — all with the common objective of maximizing the Gulf Coast’s marine bounty, at the same time preserving it for the generations.

In 1971, the year Shipp arrived at USA, the Alabama Legislature created the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. That marine education and research center has ties to all of Alabama’s universities, “but it’s dominated by South Alabama.”

The 2010 Gulf oil spill considerably raised its profile. Media outlets relied heavily on Shipp, Dr. George Crozier of the Sea Lab and other University experts. “We were all on CBS News, NBC News and CNN every night,” Shipp said.

“We are a recognized Ph.D. program, and the fact that we’re wedded to the Dauphin Island Sea Lab is a unique arrangement that has really, really benefited us. There’s no doubt that the Dauphin Island Sea Lab and the University of South Alabama are recognized as premier marine science institutions on the Gulf of Mexico.”

More than 30 years ago, Shipp became involved with the annual Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo. The catch amounts to a snapshot of Gulf fish populations, including some very unusual specimens.

Word got around, Shipp said. “Within five or six years, the British Museum, a French museum, the American Museum of Natural History, the Smithsonian, the Field Museum from Chicago, all were sending scientists down to the Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo.”

Not a bad fish story.

‘Good Bureaucrat’ Upholds Service Mission



Steve Simmons, pictured in front of the Frederick Palmer Whiddon Administration Building, helped bring NCAA football to the University of South Alabama. Earlier in his career, Simmons was the administrator at USA Medical Center, pictured below.

Bottom photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

“I’d never heard of the University of South Alabama,” Steve Simmons said. But as a young accountant in Birmingham, he answered a newspaper ad, “and they hired me the day I came down.”

Ever since, “it’s just been a fantastic experience for me,” he said. He couldn’t stay away even after retiring. He returned five years later, largely to help kick off the football program.

“They needed a good bureaucrat,” he said. “And that’s what I am. I’m a good bureaucrat. I know how to pay for things. I know how to buy things. And I’d been here long enough at that point that I knew everybody. And it was fun.”

He’s proud that “the University’s always tried its best to think about its people.” He recalls helping frantically run the weekly payroll through the computer in 1979 as Hurricane Frederic bore down. The next morning, Simmons set out through storm-devastated Mobile from his home. It was the day before payday, and many employees would desperately need their money. “It took me half a day,” Simmons said, “but I managed to drive downtown, walk in this bank with these two magnetic tapes and give them to somebody, and they honored that payroll.”

At one point in his career, Simmons was administrator of the USA Medical Center. “For me, the Medical Center will probably always be my love,” he said. “Because they provide care. They save lives. And they do it no matter who you are, no matter what part of town you come from, what your economic situation is.”

That mission of service appeals to him. “If we take care of the community and we watch our money, then everything else will take care of itself,” he said. “I think what makes the University unique is that we know we’re a community resource. We know that the community needs us.”

Steve Simmons

- Came to USA in 1977 as a CPA in the internal audit department
- Longtime administrator of USA Medical Center; retired in 2002
- Returned in 2007; became senior associate vice president for financial affairs; helped start the football program



“For me, the Medical Center will probably always be my love.”



The Power of Encouraging Words



From left, Ken Simon, 1975-76 Student Government Association president; Mandy Wagner, 1974-75 SGA president; and Dr. Howard Phillips, vice president for academic affairs. Simon was USA's first African-American SGA president. Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Ken Simon

- USA student, 1972-76; first African-American Student Government Association president, 1975-76
- Former White House fellow; former Securities and Exchange Commission assistant director
- Partner with Christian & Small attorneys in Birmingham; member of USA Board of Trustees



"The professors that I had at the University of South Alabama were outstanding teachers."

Ken Simon arrived at the University of South Alabama with, in his words, "a lot of anxieties and a lot of self-doubt."

Today's polished, quietly confident attorney was, in 1972, an uncertain African-American kid who had attended segregated schools in Mobile. "The big question was, was I good enough?" he said. "Would I be able to compete with white students in a setting such as South Alabama, with a challenging academic program?"

He was more than good enough. His senior year, Simon's fellow students elected him USA's first black Student Government Association president. "It was just one of those things that eventually was going to happen," he said modestly. "It just happened to happen during the time when I was interested in student government."

What a time it was. "We were just coming off the '60s," Simon said, "and the '60s hadn't really left. So Vietnam was very much alive and on the minds of people. The draft was a part of life for students."

Simon remembers that an enthusiastic young faculty — with many professors barely older than their students — generated excitement in the classroom, too. "I was just so fortunate to be around many people who inspired me and who did not see any limits as to what one could do," Simon said. "I think a little bit of that attitude more or less rubbed off enough to propel me forward in life."

English lecturer Walter Darring saw Simon's potential right away. While grading one of Simon's freshman compositions, Darring added a quick note: "Educate thyself Brother, and you will go far."

Simon was stunned and thrilled to be singled out for such encouragement. He took Darring's advice and went all the way to respected federal government positions and a seat on the USA Board of Trustees.

"I can say without any doubt," Simon said, "that the professors that I had at the University of South Alabama were outstanding teachers."

From Early Student to Trustee Chairman



Jim Yance and his wife, Frances, helped make construction of the football fieldhouse possible with a \$500,000 gift. When Yance enrolled at USA in 1965, there was only one building on campus.

Below is a 1968 Mobile Press-Register newspaper clipping.

When Jim Yance first enrolled at USA in the fall of 1965, the University had only been open a year and consisted of one building. Over the years, Yance has been witness to USA's phenomenal growth, in students, alumni, programs and facilities.

Yance, who went on to a successful career in law, credits USA with his professional success. His cousin, and USA's first president, Dr. Fred Whiddon urged him to try the new school for one year.

"I really liked the professors," he said. "You're talking about some down-to-earth, but brilliant, people. They would talk to you about anything."

As the University flourished, so did its campus. During Yance's freshman year, "there was only the one building and a pool. By my sophomore year, they had built another academic building, a dining hall and a gym. It was beginning to look a little more like a campus."

Despite the pressures of a thriving law practice, his devotion to USA has remained strong through the years. Yance served as chairman of Campaign USA, the University's first comprehensive fundraising initiative, which raised \$93.5 million.

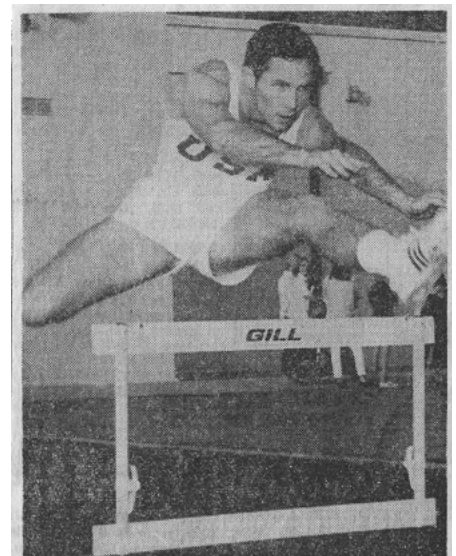
Yance and his wife, Frances, made a \$500,000 gift to the football fieldhouse in 2008, bringing the Yances' total giving to the University over time to \$619,000. In 2009, Yance won USA's Distinguished Alumni Award, the highest honor given by the University to an alumnus.

In June 2010, USA achieved a historic milestone when Yance was elected as the first undergraduate alumnus to serve as chairman pro tempore of the USA Board of Trustees.

"In the past, when I was working out downtown at the Y, people weren't talking about what was happening here. Now, there and everywhere I go, people are talking to me about University football, the building that's going on here, and how proud they are of it. They think it's a great thing for the University and for Mobile."

Jim Yance:

- Started at USA in 1965; remembers campus as one building
- Served as chairman of Campaign USA, the first comprehensive fundraising campaign
- First undergraduate alumnus to serve as chairman pro tempore of USA's Board of Trustees



DEFENDING CHAMPION — Jim Yance, University of South Alabama high hurdler, will defend his 120-yard title in the Southeastern Relays, April 17, 18, at Prichard Stadium. Yance is the meet record holder with a time of 14.8.



‘Old Southern Politics’ Helped Create USA



John Tyson Sr. recalled how southwest Alabama came together to push for the creation of the University of South Alabama. From left, Tyson, 1962; Tyson, 1970; modern portrait. First two photos courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Heart-stopping, chaotic, thrilling — as John Tyson Sr. tells it, that’s the tale of the creation of the University of South Alabama. “You talk about some maneuvering and old Southern politics,” he said.

Tyson was an Alabama state senator from Mobile when the bill to create the University was being debated. Time was running out on the legislative session in May 1963, and he needed unanimous Senate consent in order to bring the bill up.

A senator from Tuscaloosa couldn’t publicly support the bill because the University of Alabama opposed it. So, Tyson said, he worked out a deal. At just the right moment, the Tuscaloosa senator left the floor for a “bathroom break.” Tyson got his unanimous consent. The bill passed. “And we had a university,” he said.

The idea of creating the University united the region as never before, Tyson said. “It’s the first time that we had Mobile coming together with Baldwin County and Escambia County. We had everybody in this area — Republicans, Democrats. Well, we didn’t have any Republicans back in those days. But everybody came together.”

Proponents of creating a university knew they had a potential president in Dr. Fred Whiddon, director of the University of Alabama Mobile Center, Tyson said. “He was a comer; we could tell that.”

Whiddon proved them right. “Fred was an absolute genius,” Tyson said. “He could squeeze dollars.”

Tyson had equal praise for Whiddon’s successor, Gordon Moulton. “He’s got skill, and he works his tail off,” Tyson said. “And his wife is a great help. He’s done a marvelous job.”

John Tyson Sr.

- Alabama state senator, 1962-66; helped shepherd the legislation that created USA
- Original member of the USA Board of Trustees
- Longtime Mobile attorney

“You talk about some maneuvering and old Southern politics.”

College of Education Embraced Technology



As dean of the College of Education, Dr. George Uhlig said the University made it a priority to hire sharp, idea-generating faculty members.

Photo courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Dr. George Uhlig likes to refer to himself as just an old farm boy from Nebraska. But when Dr. Fred Whiddon, then president of the University of South Alabama, hired him as dean of the College of Education in 1976, Uhlig said, “My real interest at that time was technology.”

The computer age was just dawning. “I was working hard to get the faculty to become literate with the idea of computers and various kinds of technology,” Uhlig said. “I think we did a pretty good job on that. I think we were probably cutting-edge on that in the early days. Then other people figured out what we were doing, and they had a lot of money, and they kind of caught up with us. But we led the field there for four or five years.”

Not everyone saw the point of computers in education. “I guess we bought our first computer in ’78,” Uhlig said. “There were a lot of people who didn’t think it was anything but a toy.”

Of course, technology isn’t much use without good teachers. “This was a fairly old faculty, and they were retiring fairly rapidly,” Uhlig said, “and so we tried to make a priority of getting good people — young people who were good, who would come in and bring ideas in. And we were able to do that.”

When he became dean, Uhlig said, he worried that he was going to be “second-guessed” by bureaucrats from the Alabama Department of Education. He set about getting to know them. “You’d take some fishing, you’d take some hunting, you’d take some out for a beer, take some out for a martini. Pretty soon, you’d have an ally.”

Pretty slick for an old farm boy from Nebraska.

Dr. George Uhlig

- Came to USA in 1976 as professor of educational psychology and dean of the College of Education
- Stepped down as dean in 2002; continued teaching
- Retired in 2007



“We tried to make a priority of getting good people ... who would come in and bring ideas in.”



Longtime Faculty Member Shares Philosophy



Dr. Susan Youngblood, with students in the background, is pictured in the philosophy department office in the Humanities Building in the 1970s. Photo courtesy of Dr. Susan Youngblood.

Dr. Susan Youngblood

- Came to USA in 1966 as an instructor in philosophy
- Became an assistant professor of philosophy in 1980
- Tied with President Gordon Moulton as longest-serving faculty member



“We wanted to be a really, really outstanding undergraduate university.”

Directly after getting her master’s degree, Susan Youngblood was recruited into the philosophy department at the University of South Alabama — thereby doubling the size of the department. She was younger than many of her students.

“I had hair down to here,” she said, gesturing toward her waist. “So that I would look older and have more authority, I always wore it up every day during the week until Thursday afternoon. And then I took it down.”

Youngblood earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry at the University of Alabama, but “I just fell in love with philosophy my senior year.” She headed straight to graduate school to get a master’s in philosophy. Eventually, in 1980, she added a doctorate.

When she arrived at USA, she said, it was “small and intimate. You knew everybody. The president used to come and have lunch over in the cafeteria. There was an area that was set off for faculty, but there was a lot of interconnection between students and faculty.”

Dr. Fred Whiddon, USA’s first president, initially emphasized teaching over research. “And it was undergraduate education,” Youngblood said. “We were slow in getting graduate schools, but we wanted to be a really, really outstanding undergraduate university. And I think we’ve become that. And now, of course, great at research, too.”

Youngblood and current University President Gordon Moulton are USA’s longest-serving faculty members. She said Moulton told her not long ago that he had a list of the most senior faculty. “He said, ‘Guess who they are.’ I said, ‘Who?’ He said, ‘You and me.’”

Athlete-Turned-Educator Takes USA Online



Dr. Thomas Chilton gives a graduate her diploma and a handshake at the December 2012 commencement. Chilton was instrumental in bringing online learning to USA. Photo below courtesy of Thomas Chilton.

In his more than 40 years of service, Dr. Tom Chilton helped the University of South Alabama take one of its biggest leaps. In 1999, USA launched its first batch of online courses: a total of nine, spread across education, business and nursing.

Chilton was part of a half-dozen administrators and faculty members who put the initiative together.

“We had a meeting, decided who’s going to head it up,” he said. “I think I wasn’t in the room at the time, so I ended up heading it up.”

Online education is making USA into a truly worldwide institution. Today, the University offers more than 250 online courses each semester. The College of Nursing has especially embraced the concept, and entire graduate programs are now available online. A student can get a graduate degree without ever setting foot on campus.

“We made a determination that there was no difference in an on-campus class and an online class — just the mode of delivery,” Chilton said. Courses use video, audio, teacher-led discussion threads and any other means that the teachers and instructional technologists can think of to convey knowledge.

Chilton arrived at the University in the middle of his international track and field career. He competed in the 100- and 200-yard dashes, but his specialty was the long jump. He remembers his best leap spanned 26 feet, 6 inches. “During my years of competition,” Chilton said, “I defeated three Olympic champions.”

He began in what’s now the department of health, physical education and leisure studies but moved to the College of Education. Since its founding in 1967, the college has educated 17,800 teachers and school administrators, including 85 percent of Mobile’s public school teachers.

Dr. Thomas Chilton

- Came to USA in 1972 as assistant professor of health and physical education
- Former chairman of the department of health, physical education and leisure studies
- Associate dean for academic and financial affairs, College of Education; director of USA Online



“We made a determination that there was no difference in an on-campus class and an online class — just the mode of delivery.”

VI.

THE PEOPLE

*Some of the Many
Who Have Made a Difference*



University Presidents

Dr. Frederick P. Whiddon	1963-1998
V. Gordon Moulton	1998-2013

Board of Trustees Chairs Pro Tempore

Ernest G. Cleverdon	1963-1982	James P. Nix	2001-2004
Aubrey D. Green	1982-1991	Donald L. Langham	2004-2007
James P. Nix	1991-1995	Dr. Steven H. Stokes	2007-2010
Mayer Mitchell	1995-1998	James A. Yance	2010-2013
Jack R. Brunson	1998-2001		

Trustees and First Year of Service

Dr. John M. "Mac" Bell Jr.	1963	Emma Hutcherson	1984
L. W. Brannan Jr.	1963	Dr. John E. Foster	1984
Ernest G. Cleverdon	1963	Dr. Ulysses McBride	1985
Antoinette L. Watson Criss	1963	Plez B. Watson	1985
Dr. William F. Deshazo	1963	Gov. H. Guy Hunt*	1987
Mylan R. Engel	1963	Jack R. Brunson	1989
Geraldine Goodwin	1963	James P. Nix	1989
Aubrey D. Green	1963	Kenneth C. Kvalheim	1989
Connie J. Justice Jr.	1963	Dr. James M. Herring	1989
W. Ray Lolley	1963	Gov. James E. Folsom Jr.*	1993
Dr. Austin R. Meadows#	1963	W. J. "Pat" Lindsey	1993
Neil Metcalf	1963	E. Crum Foshee	1993
Grover W. Ray	1963	Dr. Steven H. Stokes	1993
Gov. George C. Wallace*	1963	Bettye R. Maye	1993
Gov. Albert P. Brewer*	1965	Herman Thomas	1993
Roland Cooper	1965	Dr. Thomas E. Ingram Jr.#	1995
John M. Tyson Sr.	1965	Dr. Ed Richardson#	1995
Charles L. Woods	1965	Dr. Max V. McLaughlin	1996
Gov. Lurleen B. Wallace*	1967	Larry P. Langford	1997
H. E. Jackson	1967	Donald L. Langham	1997
Dr. Ernest Stone#	1967	Larry D. Striplin Jr.	1998
Arthur P. Cook	1968	Gov. Don Siegelman*	1999
E. L. Brantley	1970	J. L. Chestnut Jr.	2001
O. P. Richardson#	1971	J. Cecil Gardner	2001
Dr. Leroy Brown#	1971	Samuel L. Jones	2001
Edward A. Dannelly	1971	Christie D. Miree	2001
Gillis Griffin	1971	Bryant Mixon	2001
Virginia Oglesby	1971	Gov. Bob Riley*	2003
Sam Sawyer	1972	Dr. Joseph B. Morton#	2004
Dr. Wayne Teague#	1975	Dr. Steven P. Furr	2006
Mayer Mitchell	1975	John M. Peek	2006
W. M. Collins	1976	James A. Yance	2006
Harry J. Sonneborn	1976	Dr. Scott A. Charlton	2007
Otha Lee Biggs	1978	Arlene Mitchell	2007
Hubert Bruister	1978	Kenneth O. Simon	2009
Gov. Forrest H. "Fob" James*	1979	E. Thomas Corcoran	2010
Arthur Tonsmeire Jr.	1979	James H. Shumock	2010
John A. Counts	1980	Gov. Robert Bentley*	2011
Phillip L. Forrester	1981	Larry E. Craven#	2011
J. Lee McPhearson	1981	Dr. Tommy R. Bice#	2012

Governors () and state superintendents of education (#) serve in ex officio roles while in office.*

Faculty Senate Presidents

Dr. I. H. Otto	1969-70	Dr. Victoria Rivizzigno	1995-96
Dr. Larry Holmes	1977-78	Dr. Victoria Rivizzigno	1996-97
Dr. Charles Matlock	1978-79	Dr. Suzanne McGill	1997-98
Dr. Glenn Sebastian	1979-80	Dr. Calvin Jones	1998-99
Dr. Woody Hannum	1980-81	Dr. Elise Labbé	1999-2000
Dr. Wes Baldwin	1981-82	Dr. Dan Rogers	2000-01
Dr. Tom Hewitt	1982-83	Dr. Dan Rogers	2001-02
Dr. Tim Lally	1983-84	Dr. Isabel Brown	2002-03
Dr. John Strobe	1984-85	Dr. Richmond Brown	2003-04
Dr. Bob Fornaro	1985-86	Dr. Steve Morris	2004-05
Dr. Eugenia Hamner	1986-87	Dr. Doug Haywick	2005-06
Dr. Richard Vinson	1987-88	Dr. Irene McIntosh	2006-07
Dr. Larry Williams/Dr. Syliva Spann	1988-89	Vicki Tate	2007-08
Dr. Larry Schehr	1989-90	Dr. John Sachs	2008-09
Dr. Calvin Jones	1990-91	Dr. David Turnipseed	2009-10
Dr. Larry Holmes	1991-92	Dr. Jim Connors	2010-11
Dr. Richard Vinson	1992-93	Tom Meyer	2011-12
Dr. Larry Schehr	1993-94	Dr. Phil Carr	2012-13
Dr. Scott Carter	1994-95		

Student Government Association Presidents

Richard L. Nelson Jr.	1964-65	Michael A. Boyd	1981-82	Christopher M. Hanes	1998-99
Robert T. Keyser	1965-66	Leonard C. Tillman	1982-83	John Ethan "Jeb" Shell	1999-00
Curtis M. Boutwell	1966-67	Jimmy D. Varnado	1983-84	Emily M. Hebert	2000-01
James H. Finley	1967-68	Sam W. Tillinghast	1984-85	Robert W. Waller	2001-02
Joseph J. Gallagher Jr.	1968-69	Margaret M. McLeod	1985-86	Jonathan A. Garner	2002-03
David L. Toifel	1969-70	Michael D. Kennedy	1986-87	D. Clay Hammac	2003-04
Norman E. Cox Jr.	1970-71	Abbie P. Ratcliff	1987-88	Joseph Allen Robinson Jr.	2004-05
David T. Parker	1971-72	Abbie P. Ratcliff	1988-89	Gwendolyn Eleanor	
John A. Taylor	1972-73	James A. Hunt	1989-90	"Ellie" Day	2005-06
John M. Tyson Jr.	1973-74	Heather A. McDougald	1990-91	William V. Jackson	2006-07
Martha L. Wagner	1974-75	Grady W. "Jody" Dunn Jr.	1991-92	Jennifer L. Edwards	2007-08
Kenneth O. Simon	1975-76	Michael A. Mitchell	1992-93	Caitlin E. Collins	2008-09
Katherine M. Hiers	1976-77	Michael A. Mitchell	1993-94	Glenn R. Gardner	2009-10
Mark A. Nelson	1977-78	Gregory P. Fayard	1994-95	Kimberly Proctor	2010-11
Steven M. Sisk	1978-79	Kenya D. McCarty	1995-96	Colin Al-Greene	2011-12
Henry A. Kennedy	1979-80	J. Matthew Mayo	1996-97	Parker Chastain	2012-13
James R. Harper Jr.	1980-81	W. Matthew Hancock	1997-98		

African-American Student Association Presidents

Frank E. Walker	1968-69	Roscoe W. Palmer	1982-83	Carlos E. Moore	1997-99
Milton Joyner	1968-69	Jarmora Hill	1983-84	Patrick Jenkins	2001-02
Paul Whiteurs	1969-70	Kimberly Jefferson	1984-86	Everette Welch	2002-03
Anthony Kidd	1969-70	Ronald A. Bradley	1986-87	Jamar Smith	2004-05
Larry Beckham	1970-71	Leo A. Smith	1987-88	Jeremiah Newell	2005-06
David Tarvin	1970-71	Charlene D. Johnson	1988-89	Dwaynetta Thomas	2007-08
Anita Showers	1971-73	Joe S. Fields	1989-90	Alisha Williams	2008-09
Alvin L. Lovett	1973-74	Lakecia Johnson	1990-91	Bianca Salazar	2009-10
Myrland Clarke	1974-75	Michael Mitchell	1991-92	Jessica Woodruff	2010-11
Eric T. Day	1975-77	Kimberly C. Tullus	1992-93	April McLemore	Fall 2011
Bennie Gulley	1977-79	Kenya McCarty	1993-95	Ebony Cornish	Spring 2012
Hillie G. McGrew Jr.	1979-80	Antonio Richardson	1995-96	Nino Mole	2012-13
LaMarcus A. Malone	1981-82	Adraine Jordan	1996-97		

USA National Alumni Association Presidents

Kenneth W. Cunningham	1974-75	Ken Kvalheim	1988-89	Lori Olsen Ferguson	2001-02
Owen Gaston	1975-76	Stephen Clements	1989-90	Frank Brown	2002-03
William Fulford	1976-77	John Mincy	1990-91	Don Davis	2003-04
Ted Hall	1977-78	Alan Alexander	1991-92	Michael Windom	2004-05
David Broome	1978-80	Eddie Cornell	1992-93	Pat Hicks	2005-06
John M. Tyson Jr.	1980-81	Sherrin Puckett	1993-94	Diana Laier	2006-07
David T. Parker	1981-82	Victor A. McSwain	1994-95	Andy Denny	2007-08
Donna Cunningham	1982-83	Jennifer Childress	1995-96	Tommy Zoghby	2008-09
R. Bruce McCrory	1983-84	Herman Thomas	1996-97	George Davis	2009-10
Bill Ishee	1984-85	Butch Jeffries	1997-98	Alexis Atkins	2010-11
Salime A. Zoghby	1985-86	Dr. Robert Bennett	1998-99	Penny Hatcher	2011-12
Frank D. Havard	1986-87	Warren Greene	1999-2000	Mark Hoffman	2012-13
Rick Olsen	1987-88	Jody Dunn	2000-01		

Medical Alumni Association Executive Board Presidents

Dr. H. Eldon Scott	Served until the first meeting	Dr. Carol B. Cooke	1994
Dr. William E. Dumas	1981	Dr. Maryella D. Sirmon	1995
Dr. George W. Hall	1982	Dr. William A. Broughton	1996
Dr. Patrick L. Murphy	1983	Dr. Marcia J. Littles	1997
Dr. Danny T. Hood	1984	Dr. Russell A. Hudgens	1998
Dr. Charles E. Herlihy	1985	Dr. David A. Gremse	1999
Dr. R. Kent Robinson	1986	Dr. Damian J. Collins	2000
Dr. Gaeton D. Lorino	1987	Dr. Kathleen J. Webster	2001-02
Dr. Cynthia W. Lorino	1988	Dr. Oscar D. Almeida Jr.	2003
Dr. Patrick E. Nolan	1989	Dr. Diana K. Hashimi	2004-06
Dr. Mark C. Mitchell	1990	Dr. R. Lamar Duffy	2006-08
Dr. Gregory W. Cotter	1991	Dr. Thomas B. Montgomery	2008-10
Dr. Michael T. Ledet	1992	Dr. Amy M. Morris	2010-12
Dr. David C. Ross	1993	Dr. Jill F. Ringold	2012-14

Distinguished Alumni and Service Award Recipients

Alumni 2005

Tina Allen
Michael C. Dow
Mark Hoffman
Jonathan Lieber
Dr. Laurie Beth Owen

Service 2005

Abraham Mitchell
Mayer and Arlene Mitchell
James P. and Anne Nix

Alumni 2006

Dr. Eugene de Juan Jr.
John R. Donovan Jr.
Luis E. Gonzalez
Herman Thomas

Service 2006

U.S. Rep. Herbert L. "Sonny" Callahan
Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce

Alumni 2007

Judsen Culbreth
Neil Henderson
Robert D. Jenkins III
Steven Kittrell
Kenneth Simon

Service 2007

Press-Register
U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby

Alumni 2008

E. Thomas Corcoran
James L. Harris
Robin Hurst
R. Bruce McCrory
Dr. Steven H. Stokes

Service 2008

Celia Baehr
Samuel L. Jones
Gov. Bob Riley

Alumni 2009
Marlon Anderson
Gigi Armbrrecht
Dr. Johnson Haynes
William Donald McCrory
Michael Sumrall
James A. Yance

Service 2009

Crampton Trust
Goldie S. Ungar

Alumni 2010

JoAnn Broadus
Brian Castleton
Dr. Frank V. DeGruy III
Dr. Pamela Kay Henson
John W. Mincy

Service 2010

Alabama Power Foundation Inc.
Barbara S. Malkove
Gerri S. Moulton

Alumni 2011

Dr. Damon P.S. Andrew
Christie Diane Miree
Michael C. Thompson

Service 2011

Carol N. Kittrell
Herbert and Fanny Meisler
Sydney G. Raine

Alumni 2012

Don Davis
Dr. Terrence Tumpey
W. David Whiddon

Service 2012

State Rep. Victor Gaston
Dr. Glenn Sebastian

The Andy and Carol Denny National Alumni Excellence In Teaching Award

Dr. Dennis Fell and Sharon West	2001	Dr. Francis Donovan	2007
Dr. Charles Gray	2002	Dr. William Brad Davis	2008
Dr. Mary Ann Robinson	2003	Dr. David T. Allison	2009
Dr. Cindy Stanfield	2004	Dr. Andrea M. Kent	2010
Dr. Brenda Beverly	2005	Dr. Peter J. Wood	2011
Dr. Scott Douglass	2006	Dr. Mir Zohair Husain	2012

Beth and Don Davis National Alumni Association Outstanding Advisor Award

Melissa Wold	2001	Genevieve Dardeau	2007
Theresa A. Thompson	2002	Linda Dees Pereira	2008
Sue Fishman	2003	Dr. Roy J. Daigle	2009
Martha A. Stevens	2004	Dr. Jack O'Brien	2010
Dr. Michael V. Doran	2005	Dr. Teresa Weldy	2011
Dr. Thomas G. Jackson	2006	Dr. Ellen Harrington	2012

Olivia Rambo McGlothren National Alumni Outstanding Scholar Award

Dr. Mohammad Alam	2005	Dr. Frank R. Urbancic	2009
Dr. Scott Douglass	2006	Dr. Kuang-Ting Hsiao	2010
Dr. Jennifer Langhinrichsen-Rohling	2007	Dr. Srinvas Palanki	2011
Dr. J. Steven Picou	2008	Dr. Madhuri Mulekar	2012

Semoon and Youngshin Chang Endowed Award for Humanitarian Services

Dr. P. Irene McIntosh	2009	Dr. Robert Ward Miller Jr.	2012
Dr. Linda Rousell	2011		

The Christie Miree USA National Alumni Association Outstanding Employee Awards

2002	Carolyn M. Parham Charles S. Lindauer III Sirlasha Y. Douglas Vanessa E. Brown Sally Cobb Sharon E. Davis	2006	Dr. Phillip A. Theodore Ronald W. Jowers Mamie Glover Marsha J. Butler Kara L. Levens Tonya T. Williams	2010	Gary Carley Joanna Bowen Judy Miller Sue Reinhardt Wayne Lagman Ruby Adams
2003	Kathleen M. Cherry Mallard E. Guy Jr. Jeanette M. Harper Barbara J. Shirvanian Brenda W. Hinson David W. Summer	2007	Ginny Turner Hardy E. McCracken Jacqueline L. Brown Karen F. Burns Jacqueline J. Hopkins Denise Jowers	2011	Bobbi Snow Charles Hinton David Wittner Cassie Woodall Cheryl Tartt Renee Rogers
2004	Paula K. Duke Ronald P. Collins Carrie M. Jackson Betty J. Pledger Sandy C. Toenes Sheila B. Husby	2008	Victor L. Cohen Charles E. Mitchell Mattie S. Brown Judith L. Sadler Donna J. Pigg Cathleen D. Sanford	2012	Cynthia Bumpers Roger Croley Courtney Coleman Kendrick Wright Stephanie McDaniel Bridget Moore
2005	Mimi F. Summersell William C. Clark Ceola Paige Sharon B. McDougald Gina Massey Charlie J. McCants	2009	Michelle Cagle Karen Goodwin Lloyd Stacey Holt Timothy Morris Annie Jones Jennifer Ekman		

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Richard Scrushy	1993	Robert P. Hall II	2012
Dr. Steven H. Stokes	1993	Nolan C. Leake	2012
Steve Tondera	1993		

Mobile and Baldwin County Legislators When USA Was Chartered

Senate

John M. Tyson, Mobile
L. W. Brannan Jr., Foley

House of Representatives

William H. McDermott, Mobile
Mylan R. Engel, Mobile
C.M.A. Rogers III, Mobile
Clara Stone Fields, Mobile
Robert S. Edington, Mobile
Coy Smith, Citronelle
Elwood L. Hogan, Mobile
Maurice A. "Casey" Downing, Mobile
Telfair J. Mashburn, Bay Minette

Faculty Senate 50 Outstanding Faculty Members

In honor of the University's 50th Anniversary, a Faculty Senate committee named 50 Outstanding Faculty Members, including current and former faculty, to represent the broad spectrum of the University's educators over the years. Nominations came from alumni, students, faculty members and friends of the University. Selection criteria included number of nominations; strength of each nomination; diversity of nomination sources, such as students, alumni, faculty and administration; and faculty accomplishments in the areas of teaching, research and/or service.

"Looking back over the many changes that occurred during the 50-year history of USA, one constant is the outstanding faculty," said Dr. Phil Carr, president of the 2012-2013 Faculty Senate. "In order to honor all of these individuals, past and present, the Faculty Senate solicited nominations for faculty members considered outstanding by members of the USA family. Those nominated were judged based on a committee process that identified 50 outstanding individual faculty members, and one criterion was to span the history and diversity of the University. While these are not the only outstanding faculty in the history of USA, these individuals are exemplary. The Faculty Senate is pleased to recognize our 50 Outstanding Faculty Members."

The Faculty Senate 50 Outstanding Faculty Members, selected from current and past faculty, are:

- Dr. Robert V. Barrow, professor of political science and criminal justice.
- Dr. John B. Bass Jr., professor of internal medicine.
- Dr. Brenda L. Beverly, associate professor of speech pathology and audiology.
- Dr. Anne A. Boettcher, professor of biological sciences.
- JoAnn Broadus, assistant professor of maternal/child health nursing.
- Dr. Barbara A. Broome, professor of community/mental health nursing.
- Dr. Jerry A. Bush, professor of music.
- Nadia K. Bush, instructor of communication.
- Dr. Nicole T. Carr, associate professor of sociology and anthropology.
- Angela M. Clark, senior instructor of computing.
- Dr. Joseph Coggin, professor of microbiology and immunology.
- Dr. James J. Connors Jr., assistant professor of earth sciences.
- Dr. Pat C. Covey, professor of biomedical sciences and clinical laboratory sciences.
- Dr. Roy J. Daigle, professor of computing.
- Patricia M. Davis, senior instructor of chemistry.
- Dr. Francis M. Donovan, professor of mechanical engineering.
- Dr. Dennis W. Fell, professor of physical therapy and biomedical sciences.
- Alice J. Godfrey, assistant professor of community/mental health nursing.
- Dr. Ann M. Guzy, associate professor of English.
- Dr. Michael Hanna, professor of communication.
- Dr. Ellwood B. Hannum, professor of history.
- Dr. Joaquin Holloway Jr., senior librarian.
- Dr. Larry Holmes, professor of history.
- Dr. Mir Z. Husain, associate professor of political science and criminal justice.
- James Kennedy, professor of art and art history.
- Dr. Elise E. Labbe-Coldsmith, professor of psychology.
- Dr. George Lamb, professor of geology.
- Dr. John Lane, professor of behavioral studies and education technology.
- Dr. Susan P. Ledoux, professor of cell biology and neuroscience.
- Dr. Brenda C. Litchfield, professor of professional studies.
- Dr. Heide Lomangino, assistant professor of foreign languages.
- Dr. Leonard A. Macaluso, associate professor of history.
- Dr. Elizabeth Martin, professor of education.
- Dr. Satya N. Mishra, professor of mathematics and statistics.
- Dr. Carl C. Moore, professor of management.
- Dr. Donald Mosley Sr., professor of business management.
- Catherine A. O'Keefe, senior instructor of health, physical education and leisure services.
- Dr. John H. Pardue, professor of computing.
- Dr. Sean P. Powers, professor of marine sciences.
- Dr. Glenn R. Sebastian, associate professor of earth sciences.
- Dr. Edward L. Shaw Jr., professor of leadership and teacher education.
- Dr. Robert L. Shipp, professor of marine sciences.
- Dr. George Sun, associate professor of philosophy.
- Dr. Robert B. Sweeney Jr., associate professor of computing.
- Dr. Hanes M. Swingle, associate professor of pediatrics.
- Dr. A. Jeannette Sylvestre, professor of accounting.
- Dr. Julio F. Turrens, professor of biomedical sciences.
- Dr. Sankoorikal L. Varghese, professor of physics.
- Dr. Bret M. Webb, assistant professor of civil engineering.
- Dr. Hollis Wiseman, professor of pediatrics.



USA  50
YEARS
UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH ALABAMA
1963-2013