



President's Report
2022-2023



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH ALABAMA

FLAGSHIP OF THE GULF COAST.





PRESIDENT'S LETTER

When I accepted the role as fourth president of the University of South Alabama — one of the highest honors of my lifetime — I discussed with our Board of Trustees and the University community my desire to build on the foundation upon which the University was founded 60 years ago.

Building on our foundation reflects a respect for how far we've come and enthusiastic acknowledgment that the best for our University is still in front of us.

In many ways, we are at a pivotal moment. In January 2022, vaccinations had shown promise for finally controlling a persistent COVID-19 pandemic. For both the University and USA Health, this offered an opportunity to decide the next steps for our future.

If our foundation was strong — and it was and is — how do we design the structure for our next 60 years? How will we move forward as the Flagship of the Gulf Coast and be the leading academic institution and healthcare provider throughout our region?

USA Health has undergone a successful transformation in recent years. Once mostly accessed for specialty care and safety net services, our health system has expanded to meet the needs of our entire community. With enhanced primary care services greatly increasing our patient population, we continue to add clinical space at University Hospital. USA Health celebrated the opening in March 2022 of a freestanding emergency department in west Mobile and, a few months later, the first building on our new Mapp Family Campus in Fairhope.

In April 2023, we announced arguably the most significant healthcare news in the region since the University began its medical school 50 years ago — the planned acquisition of Providence Hospital and its clinics by the USA Health Care Authority.

This growth trajectory has allowed us to serve new patients while also supporting our commitments to education and discovery through new avenues for clinical training and research.

On the University campus, we announced plans for a new Frederick P. Whiddon College of Medicine building that will allow us to increase the number of physicians that enter our program. In total, we have secured \$140 million for this project.

Two transformational gifts were announced this year alone, from Abraham "Abe" Mitchell for a new performing arts center and from Steve and Angelia Stokes to support our new Stokes School of Marine and Environmental Sciences.

It is a thrill to be able to meet with our alumni — now totaling 95,000 — across the state and from coast to coast to let them know about all the exciting things happening on campus. But most of all, it is a privilege and a joy to meet with our students and to hear and see their excitement.

I experienced it while giving rides this year on campus in the presidential golf cart with SGA President Camille Bonura, joining the Jaguar Marching Band at this year's Mardi Gras, wading into the student section at Hancock Whitney Stadium during our football team's 10-3 run, cooking pancakes with our leadership team during Finals Frenzy, and shaking hand after hand of our graduates at Commencement ceremonies.

I also am fortunate to help showcase our campus to the hundreds of high school students we've brought here on our brand new athletics buses for VIP tours.

Just as we are patient-focused at USA Health, we commit to being student-driven at the University. Sixty years ago, they were the reason this great University was created. And, as architects of our future, we will continually build on that foundation and always focus on their needs to thrive as the Flagship of the Gulf Coast.

Jo Bonner





PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION South's Fourth President

The fourth president of the University of South Alabama, Jo Bonner, celebrated his inauguration on Sept. 23, 2022, with good news and renewed confidence for the Flagship of the Gulf Coast.

Bonner emphasized student recruitment and retention when he talked about a new feeling of energy and excitement on campus.

He pledged that South will be aggressive in pursuing students along the Gulf Coast, and will be committed to their success after they arrive. The University has expanded the Start South and Pathway USA programs that help high school and community college students become Jaguars. We have also added scholarships and launched a Second Year Program to help students continue on a path toward graduation.

In fall 2022, the University began to utilize new athletics buses to pick up high school students and bring them to campus for VIP tours.

Amidst the pomp and circumstance of the presidential inauguration, Bonner was surrounded at the Mitchell Center by members of his family, members of the University Board of Trustees, Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey, and other elected leaders and friends from throughout the state, as well as members of the President's Council, deans, and faculty and staff.

Bonner served as a United States congressman for a decade and later became chief of staff to Ivey. As president, he succeeds Dr. Tony Waldrop, 2014–2021, Gordon Moulton, 1998–2013, and Dr. Frederick Whiddon, 1963–1998.

The week of Bonner's inauguration featured a student showcase, food drives and a beautification project on campus, along with other activities including guest speaker Mike Abrashoff, who wrote about Navy leadership in "It's Your Ship" for the Irving Silver and Frances Grodsky Silver Endowed Presidential Lectureship.

***"This is not just a celebration of having a new president. Instead, it is a celebration of all things USA, of those who came before us and of the significant contributions and lasting impact this University has had — and will have — on our region, state and nation for years and decades to come."* — PRESIDENT JO BONNER**





Scan this code for
President Jo Bonner's
Inaugural Address.



EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST'S LETTER

There's something special about this place.

That was the conclusion of a group of academics who toured campus this spring during our reaffirmation of accreditation process. It was a memorable moment, visitors to our university articulating something we've known, and felt, for some time.

The University of South Alabama is a special place. It's a truth that's spreading because of those who make it special — our students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends.

Our community is diverse and dynamic with a focus on discovery, health and learning. We attract students from all 67 Alabama counties, all 50 states and, this year alone, 63 different countries.

Students often tell us they fall in love with South on their first visit. That's one of the reasons we've increased our efforts to bring high school students to campus. We also visited Alabama and Mississippi high schools for recruiting pep rallies, often complete with cheerleaders and members of the Jaguar Marching Band. In addition, our Start South program is giving hundreds of high school students a chance to experience college through dual enrollment.

Many Jaguars, like myself, are first-generation college students, while others follow in the footsteps of their parents and grandparents. All share school spirit and a sense of Jaguar pride and accomplishment. Whether initiating a standing ovation for our Passage USA graduates at a Commencement ceremony or being inducted into a prestigious honor society, our students make tangible the Jaguar spirit.

This fall we admitted our most academically talented class in measured history, with an overall 3.75 grade point average, substantiated by a 90 percent freshman retention rate from the fall of 2022 to the spring of 2023.

With a focus on recruitment, we hired an experienced associate vice president for enrollment management to begin this summer, continuing the strong and strategic work that has been underway to reach potential students and their families.

New deans have been announced for the Honors College, the Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health Professions and the School of Computing.

There has been an intentional focus on student retention and success, through both an academic lens and student engagement. Expanding our efforts from first-year students, we implemented a strategic program focused on outreach, mentoring and support of second-year students in an effort to close equity gaps and increase graduation rates.

Our more than 200 student organizations are filled with opportunities to engage and build connections, and a walk around our campus reveals vibrant student life.

A focus on healthcare programs uniquely positions our University for growth. With a new Frederick P. Whiddon College of Medicine building on the horizon, and USA Health experiencing explosive growth, the learning opportunities and the positive impact our students, employees and alumni are having on our region are undeniable.

With our location on the Gulf Coast, it is no wonder that the newly dedicated Stokes School of Marine and Environmental Sciences already is looking at enrollment growth and external funding that is leading to transformational research around the world.

For 2022, South received a record \$118 million in external awards for research, education and service programs, and we set a fundraising record of \$40.1 million for the fiscal year.

All in all, we feel a sense of energy and excitement throughout the University.

While not finalized, the journey to reaffirmation of our accreditation through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges has been positive, with a focus on telling the amazing stories of our stakeholders and how their work advances our institution.

As we look forward to expanding enrollment, focusing academics on workforce development and innovative research, and transforming our community through intentional service and healthcare, we know that the University of South Alabama's impact is exponentially extraordinary. It is indeed special.

Ardi M. Kent





ACADEMIC AFFAIRS Helping to Steer the Flagship

Academic Affairs leads the way as South stakes its claim as the Flagship of the Gulf Coast. Innovative academic programs, transformative research and extraordinary service by faculty, staff and students exemplify the division's commitment to making a difference in our community, region and world.

The University has begun implementing a new Quality Enhancement Plan that coincides with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges institutional accreditation review. LevelUP is a campus-wide initiative that provides enhanced opportunities for students to develop career readiness competencies that prepare them for life after their degree as confident, ready and capable members of the workforce or well-equipped graduate students.

The College of Education and Professional Studies, College of Arts and Sciences, Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health Professions, and School of Computing have added new degree programs. Healthcare programs in the colleges of Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health Professions remain highly sought after: Nearly half of South's graduates earn degrees in a healthcare field.

Enrollment continues to rise in the School of Computing, which received an \$8 million U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command contract that is focused on cybersecurity of space and missile systems technology. In spring 2023, the College of Engineering hosted the Gulf Coast Student Symposium competition, sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers, which attracted more than 400 students from 15 universities. South compiled the most points and earned the Outstanding Student Chapter award.

The Graduate School and the Office of Research and Economic Development collaborated with businesses to offer industry-specific certificate programs that can lead to a degree and address the region's rapidly expanding workforce needs.

The Mitchell College of Business and the College of Nursing received national recognition as U.S. News & World Report listed South among its Best Colleges for business programs, nursing programs and social mobility.



JAG DAYS The University brought more than 1,500 students from more than 30 nearby high schools to campus on our new athletics buses. Students met faculty and staff, ate in the dining hall, visited academic buildings, residence halls and athletic facilities, and learned about student life and academics. President Jo Bonner and Executive Vice President and Provost Dr. Andi Kent also recruited at dozens more schools throughout Alabama and Mississippi.

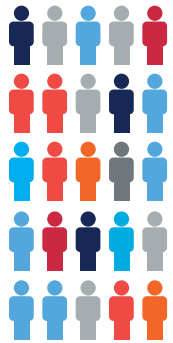


NATIONAL RECOGNITION The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities named USA one of only four national finalists for its 2022 Degree Completion Award. Since 2010, the University has improved four-year graduation rates by 131 percent. The Degree Completion Award identifies, recognizes and rewards institutions that employ innovative approaches to improve degree completion while ensuring educational quality.



NEW DEGREE PROGRAMS The newly dedicated Stokes School of Marine and Environmental Sciences began offering two new undergraduate programs, allowing students to pursue bachelor's degrees in marine sciences and environmental and sustainability sciences. The courses complement established graduate and research programs. The school expects to hire additional professors of marine and environmental science over the next four years and will be recruiting at least 80 new undergraduate students, as well.

BY THE NUMBERS



ENROLLMENT
(FALL 2022)

13,463



AVERAGE
CLASS SIZE

19

AVERAGE ACT OF
ENTERING FRESHMEN

23.1



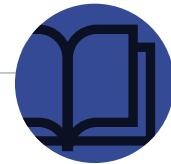
STUDENT-FACULTY RATIO

17:1

17



NCAA DIVISION 1
SPORTS TEAMS



AVERAGE GPA OF
ENTERING FRESHMEN

3.75



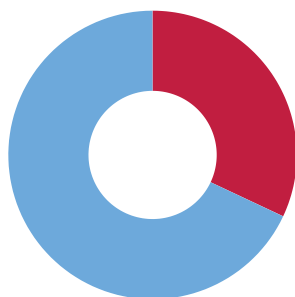
90%

FIRST YEAR
RETENTION RATE
(FALL 2022 –
SPRING 2023)

75%

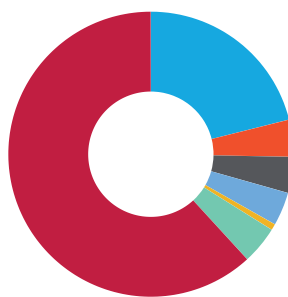
OF INSTRUCTION
AT SOUTH IS
TAUGHT BY
FULL-TIME
FACULTY

GENDER



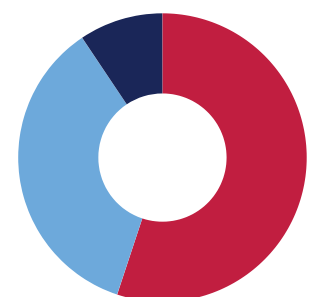
● 32% Male
● 68% Female

ETHNICITY



● 61.8% White
● 21.1% African American
● 4.2% Hispanic
● 4.1% Asian and Pacific Islander
● 3.8% Multiracial
● 0.7% Native American
● 4.3% Unknown

LEVEL

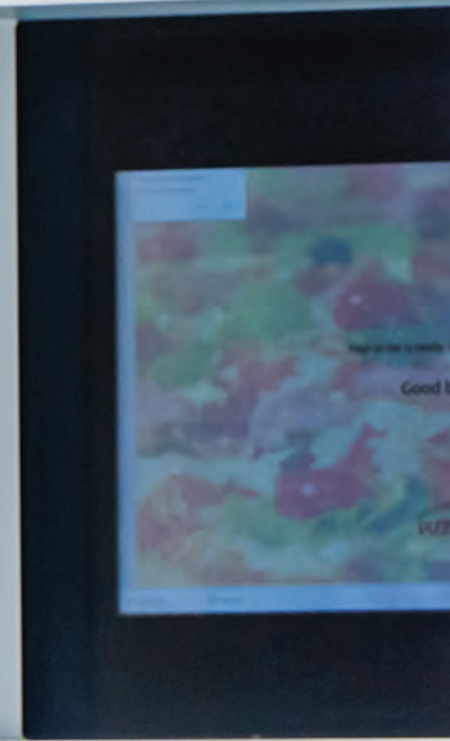


● 63.1% Undergraduate
● 27.8% Master's
● 9.1% Doctoral

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IN 3 MINUT

STUDENT AFFAIRS Improving Students' Everyday Experience

The Division of Student Affairs provides services that impact students every day. We're committed to creating a supportive campus environment that fosters engagement, academic success and personal development within a diverse community of learners.

We recently launched numerous initiatives to help current and prospective South students. We created decorated virtual reality room tours for all residence hall room types that allow students to envision how they might decorate a prospective room. Adding a live chat to the MyUSAHousing portal also allows students to receive live assistance from a housing team member, and we provided additional dining options, including a meal exchange program giving flexibility to students on all-access plans and a 24-hour pizza vending machine at Delta Commons.

The University invested nearly \$500,000 in the Student Recreation Center to update the outdoor pool and buy new equipment for the facility.

The Center also redesigned space and added equipment for functional fitness and the hottest all-fitness-levels sport: pickleball. The Outdoor Adventures program now includes more affordable local trips, and South has three new club sports: running, tennis and sailing.

Homecoming events in 2022 featured a pep rally with football Head Coach Kane Wommack, the Jaguar Marching Band and a larger-than-ever bonfire, complete with a finale of fireworks. The Southerners, USA's student ambassadors, represented the University at dozens of events on campus and in the community. And Greek Life was in full swing with an emphasis on school spirit and philanthropic activities.

The Student Center stayed busy with more than 2,700 reservations from January 2022 through the early part of 2023. Jaguar Productions hosted events that nearly 6,000 students attended. For veterans and dependents, \$7.7 million in benefits were processed.



DISABILITY RESOURCES The renovated space for the Center for Educational Accessibility and Disability Resources, or CEADR, helps make education as accessible as possible for all. It offers support for the more than 600 South students who find traditional academic facilities challenging for learning. The 5,400-square-foot center includes quiet rooms for test taking, technology rooms and other areas designed for students with disabilities.



HONORING SENIORS The first annual Jaguar Senior Medallion Ceremony recognized 17 graduating senior scholars in 2022 for their contributions to JagNation, and another 24 were inducted this year. Honorees showed outstanding scholarship plus engagement in activities at South. Additional awards were given for working to change perceptions of disability and accessibility, furthering diversity, equity and inclusion, and overcoming significant challenges.



MULTICULTURAL LEADERSHIP CENTER A grand opening for the new Multicultural Leadership Center, formerly Alumni Hall, was held in October. The center is designed to be a welcoming, engaging, supportive and inclusive environment for students. It features office and meeting rooms for eight University organizations and comfortable furnishings for simply gathering and relaxing.

DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS Focused on Engagement

To support the University's mission of making a difference in the lives of those it serves through promoting discovery, health and learning, the Division of Development and Alumni Relations brings together alumni and friends throughout the United States and around the globe to support the work of the University of South Alabama.

Alumni and friends of the University are coming back to campus to network and connect and are attending South-sponsored events across the country as never before. In 2022, South's MacQueen Alumni Center welcomed more than 11,000 people to 117 events, and 2023 is on target to exceed those totals. One of the largest events each year is the Distinguished Alumni & Service Awards Gala, the signature event of the USA National Alumni Association. In total, 14 alumni, community leaders and organizations were honored in 2022 and 2023 for their accomplishments and impact.

The National Alumni Association, led by President Jim Moore until Kim Lawkis' term began in 2022, is engaging with alumni and friends throughout our region and around the country. The association hosts the popular Takeover Tuesday events monthly at local venues in Mobile and Baldwin counties. Alumni Reunion Weekend 2022 drew hundreds of

alumni to visit campus and cheer on the Jags football team as it beat Louisiana Monroe 41-34. In Los Angeles, Atlanta, Washington, D.C., and Birmingham, alumni and friends attended receptions and dinners to meet President Jo Bonner and hear his vision for the future.

The inaugural Irving Silver and Frances Grodsky Silver Endowed Presidential Lectureship, featuring bestselling author and motivational speaker Capt. Mike Abrashoff, engaged the campus community and general public.

Development efforts continue to focus on expanding the nearly 500 endowed scholarships that allow students to focus on their studies and worry less about debt.

Fundraising is underway for the new Frederick P. Whiddon College of Medicine building, with a \$30 million gift from the USA Foundation along with federal and state appropriations. This will allow the Whiddon College of Medicine to expand its class size to 100 students. Significant fundraising initiatives in the last year also have benefited the new USA Health Mapp Family Campus in Fairhope and the Children's & Women's Pediatric Emergency Center.



FUNDRAISING RECORD The generosity of alumni and friends has powered South to a second consecutive record for fundraising: \$40.1 million in fiscal year 2022, topping the record of \$26 million raised the prior year. fiscal year 2023 is on target to be a successful fundraising year, as well, and is expected to meet or exceed the prior year's total. This extraordinary outpouring is creating a wave of transformation in every part of the University and across the Gulf Coast.



TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFTS Gifts from individuals in 2023 include \$20 million from Abraham "Abe" Mitchell to provide for a new performing arts center that will serve the campus community and the region. Steven and Angelia Stokes donated \$2 million to the Stokes School of Marine and Environmental Sciences, which was named in honor of their lifetime contributions to the University totaling nearly \$7 million. Their gifts will accelerate the school's progress in understanding, restoring, preserving and protecting our Gulf Coast natural resources.



SHELBY SCHOLARS The University, working with Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson and the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, has established the Senator Richard Shelby and Dr. Annette Shelby Distinguished Scholars in Engineering and Computing. The collaboration will provide two fully funded scholarships to outstanding students in these fields.



60TH ANNIVERSARY May 5 Kickoff

The University of South Alabama celebrated its 60th Anniversary May 5, 2023, with a ceremony on campus and announced it will receive a \$20 million gift for construction of a new performing arts center.

University President Jo Bonner made the announcement that philanthropist and longtime South supporter Abraham “Abe” Mitchell is adding to his legacy of generosity with this transformational gift. Mitchell has now given the University \$120 million, making him one of the largest donors to a public university in the state of Alabama.

The ceremony on campus kicked off a yearlong 60th Anniversary celebration with events focused on remembering the many milestones achieved and looking ahead to growing South’s mission of serving students, the region and the state as the Flagship of the Gulf Coast.

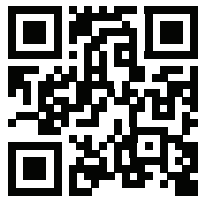
South’s story began in the early 1960s, when Mobile’s civic leaders saw the need to improve access to higher education in southwest Alabama. Realizing the region had outgrown the small extension program that operated out of a building downtown, they formulated plans for a four-year, degree-granting institution. On May 3, 1963, a bill creating

a new, independent university passed the Alabama Legislature, and the University of South Alabama was born.

Classes began in June 1964 at a new, \$1 million building in west Mobile with an initial enrollment of 276. The extent of the pent-up demand for education became obvious when the first fall semester began. Enrollment leaped to 928 — and it continues to grow. Today, South enrolls nearly 13,500 students annually and has awarded more than 108,000 degrees.

The site of the future performing arts building is yet to be determined, and further fundraising is ongoing. Once completed, the state-of-the-art facility will complement the current Laidlaw Performing Arts Center, serving the University and the entire Mobile community.

With red, white and blue cupcakes and music by members of the Jaguar Marching Band, even SouthPaw and Miss Pawla were in a festive mood by the time the 60th Anniversary program had shifted to the 2023 Commencement ceremony that was held later that afternoon.



Watch a video tribute to South's first 60 years.





PRESIDENT'S CABINET Expanding Our Reach

In an effort to expand our reach and influence into the community just as the University of South Alabama was preparing to celebrate its 60th Anniversary, a new group called the President's Cabinet was launched in 2022.

Members of the President's Cabinet serve as advocates for vibrant and interactive engagement with the community. Cabinet members have a visible presence in our campus life.

At USA home football games, there is an exclusive area located in a VIP tent near the South Entrance to facilitate networking among Cabinet members, members of the USA Board of Trustees, members of the president's and deans' councils and community

leaders. There are also two distinguished lectures followed by networking dinners held during the year with an update especially for members of the President's Cabinet; for the 2022-23 academic year, New York Times bestselling author Andy Andrews and Alabama attorney, author and motivational speaker Liz Huntley were the featured speakers.

The goal was to have 60 members join the President's Cabinet for the University's 60th Anniversary, and that goal was reached. All members have chosen to distinguish themselves through their philanthropy, service and advocacy by supporting the mission of the University of South Alabama.



RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Advancing Knowledge, Addressing Workforce Needs

South's Office of Research and Economic Development leads, manages and facilitates the University's internally and externally funded research and its scholarly and creative activities. During fiscal year 2022, faculty and staff prepared almost 500 grant proposals. Three hundred and forty-two projects were funded for a record \$118 million in external awards for research, education and service programs.

The following are a few highlights: The University signed a licensing agreement with Norton Engineering Consultants for technology to capture carbon dioxide emissions, developed at the South Alabama Ionic Liquids Laboratory. This will help meet the critical need for direct air capture.

USA received a five-year Gulf Scholars Program grant from the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine. South joins several

other universities in this pilot program, funded by \$12.7 million from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill legal settlement. Led at South by Dr. Steven Scyphers, associate professor of marine and environmental sciences, the program prepares undergraduates to solve environmental, health, energy and infrastructure challenges. It emphasizes interdisciplinary approaches and community engagement.

Dr. Na Gong, Warren Nicholson professor of electrical and computer engineering, was awarded a \$6 million National Science Foundation grant to lead researchers in three states who are working with artificial intelligence to develop a wearable device to predict the onset of diabetes. The three components of the project are research, workforce development and economic development.



NEW HIGHS IN AWARDS The record \$118 million in external awards for research, education and service programs that USA earned included \$22.6 million in the College of Arts and Sciences — also a record. In all, 342 proposals were funded at the University and USA Health.



IN ORBIT After six years of work and five weeks of delays, University of South Alabama engineering students and professors celebrated the July 2022 launch of a SpaceX rocket carrying the JagSat-1 satellite. JagSat-1 is a satellite, roughly 4-by-4-by-8 inches, which weighs less than 5 pounds. It was launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, and designed to measure free electron density in the near-vacuum of space.



TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE The Office of Research and Economic Development presented the first Technology Showcase, highlighting new developments in engineering, medicine and chemistry. More than 100 individuals from industry, government and academia interacted with leading researchers.



USA HEALTH Growing to Meet Region's Needs

USA Health gained momentum on several significant projects aimed at meeting the needs of the region's growing population.

In early 2023, the University of South Alabama Health Care Authority entered into an agreement to acquire Providence Hospital and its clinics in a transaction that will enhance the Mobile community's access to high-quality healthcare. This will allow USA Health to enhance capabilities across the tripartite mission of education, research and clinical care.

At University Hospital, a build-out of the 10th and 11th floors added 64 beds, expanding the hospital's capacity to provide the most advanced care in the region. The hospital also received certification as a Comprehensive Stroke Center, the only one in the region and one of only three in the state.

Children's & Women's Hospital opened a newly refurbished fifth floor to offer luxury amenities for

newborns and their families. It includes a 20-suite postpartum unit designed to promote comfort and bonding for families and their newborns through an approach called couplet care. The same nurse cares for mother and baby in the same room from birth until both are ready to go home.

USA Health continued to expand clinical sites in Baldwin County, including at the Mapp Family Campus in Fairhope, where population growth has skyrocketed. Work is already underway on other projects — four new operating rooms at University Hospital and a pediatric emergency center renovation and expansion at Children's & Women's Hospital — indicating that USA Health will maintain its impressive track record of growth for the foreseeable future. USA Health has expanded its leadership team as the system has experienced exponential growth.



MAPP FAMILY CAMPUS USA Health dedicated a 50,000-square-foot medical office building on the Mapp Family Campus, on land donated by Melinda and Louis Mapp, in Fairhope. The building is home to Baldwin Family Medicine and several USA Health specialty care providers. Next up at the site is a 24,000-square-foot ambulatory surgery center, to be completed in 2023.



FREESTANDING EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT People who live and work in west Mobile benefit from a new freestanding emergency department, which opened in spring 2022 near USA's main campus. Led by board-certified emergency medicine physicians, the facility is open 24 hours every day. It features significant imaging capabilities including CT, MRI, mammography, ultrasound and diagnostic X-ray. A neighboring medical office building is scheduled to open later this year with primary and specialty care clinics.



NEW MED SCHOOL HOME USA Health unveiled plans for a 295,000-square-foot facility to house the Frederick P. Whiddon College of Medicine. Expected to be completed in 2026, it will bring research and education together to encourage collaboration. Funding includes a \$60 million appropriation from U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby, a \$50 million earmark from Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey and \$30 million from the University of South Alabama Foundation.

BY THE NUMBERS

89TH

PERCENTILE OF ALL MEDICAL SCHOOLS FOR PERCENTAGE OF ALUMNI WHO PRACTICE IN RURAL AREAS

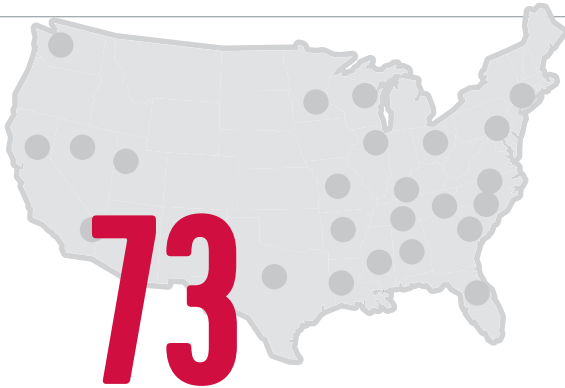
29



LOCATIONS IN MOBILE AND BALDWIN COUNTIES

81ST

PERCENTILE OF ALL MEDICAL SCHOOLS FOR PERCENTAGE OF ALUMNI WHO PRACTICE IN-STATE



73

WHIDDON COLLEGE OF MEDICINE STUDENTS MATCHED IN 24 STATES



2,577

BABIES BORN AT CHILDREN'S & WOMEN'S HOSPITAL IN 2022

84

NEW PATIENT BEDS AT CHILDREN'S & WOMEN'S AND UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS



ATHLETICS Historic Success in Sports

South Alabama Athletics racked up historic achievements. Jaguar football led the charge with a record-breaking 10-2 regular season, including a 7-1 Sun Belt Conference record. That earned an invitation to play Western Kentucky on national television in the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl. Thousands of Jaguar faithful traveled to support the team. After the game, South Alabama received votes in the final American Football Coaches Association Coaches Poll, one of the sport's two major top 25 rankings.

The men's basketball team reached the Sun Belt Tournament final in Pensacola, Florida. Again, thousands of Jaguars fans traveled to the championship game against Louisiana. The men's track and field team won its first ever Sun Belt outdoor championship. The women's tennis team also won a conference crown. Overall, the Jaguars finished second in 2022 by one point to Texas State in the race for the Vic Bubas Cup, given to the conference's all-sports champion, and there are indications of a strong finish in 2023. The Jags have won five of the past eight Bubas Cups. Kirami Yego won All-America honors in men's cross-country and

was named the Sun Belt indoor men's track and field performer of the year. Teammate Kyle Rademeyer was an All-American in the indoor pole vault.

In softball, Coach Becky Clark received Sun Belt Conference Coach of the Year accolades in 2023, and Olivia Lackie became the first player in program history to earn Pitcher of the Year for the regular season.

After two national searches, South Alabama named Yolisha Jackson as women's basketball head coach and Marcelo Huarte as women's golf head coach.

Jackson returned to South after three years at the University of South Florida as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator. Before that, she spent seven years as an assistant coach at South Alabama.

Huarte was most recently the assistant coach at the University of Miami. Before that he was head coach for both the women's and men's golf programs at Lynn University. He led the women to the final eight at the 2022 national championship, and they held the number one ranking for 32 weeks. His 2018 squad finished second nationally.



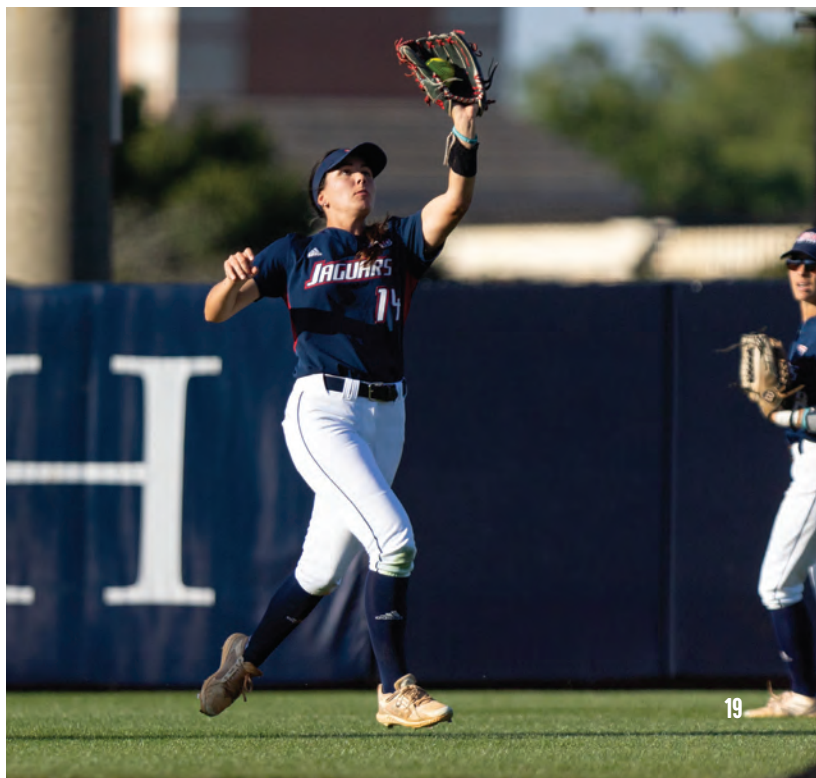
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE South's NCAA Graduation Success Rate was 91%, compared with the overall Division I rate of 89%. The NCAA Academic Progress Rate single-year score was 974, while the four-year score was 980 — both well above the NCAA minimum of 930 for teams to compete in championships. Student-athletes in several programs achieved semester GPAs at or above previous bests.



NATIONAL EXPOSURE The Athletics Department, using student crews, self-produced more than 110 broadcasts during the academic year for streaming live on ESPN+, and featured the football, volleyball, soccer, men's and women's basketball, baseball and softball teams. Total viewership surpassed 300,000. Several football and men's basketball games received national exposure on networks, including the Pac-12 Network, several ESPN channels and the NFL Network.



RAISING SOUTH'S PROFILE Jaguar Athletics hosted several events that brought thousands of people to our campus and community, raising awareness of South regionally and nationally. They included the Alabama High School All-Star Football Game, the Alabama/Mississippi high school all-star games for football and boys' and girls' basketball, the LendingTree Bowl (in which Southern Miss defeated Rice) and the Reese's Senior Bowl.



DIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT South Welcomes All

The Office of Diversity and Community Engagement was formed under the leadership of a new vice president, Dr. Joél Billingsley. The office pursues a campus climate that welcomes all and engages with internal and external community partners to create a positive impact.

Opportunities to engage with those outside the university during the 2022-2023 academic year included the annual MLK March and Rally honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Project Homeless Connect day of helping those who are homeless receive services they need and our series of Belonging Rocks! paint parties. External partner events also were held with United Way of Southwest Alabama and the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama.

Community service outreach efforts and the new Semester of Service program resulted in 963 new South Serves users and 53 new agency partners. The new partners included 31 community organizations recruited in collaboration with United Way of Southwest Alabama, nine USA departments/

programs and 12 student organizations, bringing the overall total to 268 agency partners. More than 750 students, faculty and staff reported participating in engagement opportunities.

We celebrated National First-Gen Day on Nov. 8 to recognize first-generation students, faculty and staff — the first in their families to pursue a four-year degree. Activities included a student mixer and a faculty, staff and alumni panel discussion. Internal community partners included the Student Government Association, the Office of Student Academic Success, USA One Stop and the Division of Student Affairs.

The University convened a new Cultural Awareness Collaborative, a group of faculty, staff and students dedicated to building awareness and understanding of important observances and holidays. Diversity and community engagement initiatives support institutional efforts on grants, governance, program accreditation and continuous quality improvement and are representative of USA's mission of making a difference in the lives of those it serves.



GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS State Funding Increase Sets Record

The Office of Governmental Relations provides a liaison between the University and local, state and federal governments and agencies. It particularly monitors the Alabama legislative process and any actions related to the University's appropriation from the Alabama Education Trust Fund, the state's largest operating fund.

In 2022, we secured a \$23.2 million increase in state funding, the largest in the University's history. Altogether, the office has helped bring nearly \$110 million in government funding to the University since January 2022.

After two years of working with former U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby and his staff, Governmental Relations secured \$60 million in earmarked federal funding for the planned Frederick P. Whiddon College of Medicine building. In total, including a \$50 million state allocation and \$30 million from the USA Foundation, the University has secured \$140 million in external funding for this more than \$200 million project.

Last year, the University received a supplemental state appropriation of \$7.5 million to help renovate South's engineering laboratories. Two lab areas in the Science Lab Building totaling 15,000 square feet have

not been updated since the building's construction in 1978. New, state-of-the-art equipment will support the creation of new technologies and help train students to enter today's workforce, especially in energy and advanced manufacturing.

At USA Health, a \$1.5 million federal earmark will pay for new imaging equipment that's crucial for treating children at USA Health Children's & Women's Hospital. As part of the upgrade, a new 1.5-tesla MRI scanner replaces a 15-year-old model. It provides sharper images and quicker scans, allowing more patients to be scanned each day, and reduces the need for sedating children during scans.

Other notable federal funding accomplishments included a \$500,000 earmark for South's Police Department, \$2 million in directed funding for the College of Nursing to establish a demonstration program to expand access to holistic assault services on college campuses and \$4.5 million in directed funding to study carbon dioxide scrubbing in submarines under the Office of Naval Research. The university also received \$16 million in directed Department of Defense funding.



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION Keeping the University Running

The Division of Finance and Administration handles operational and financial systems that support virtually all aspects of the University. Our collaborative workforce uses its talents and skills to serve students, patients, faculty and staff through a variety of functions, including accounting, financial reporting, budgeting, risk management, treasury operations and real estate services.

After 25 years of dedicated service to the University of South Alabama, Vice President for Finance and Administration Polly Stokley announced her retirement effective June 1, 2023. During her tenure, Stokley has contributed to the University's success through sound fiscal and operational management.

Three employees who reported directly to Stokley were moved into redefined leadership roles in the division: Kristen Roberts now serves as chief financial officer, Peter Susman is the chief

administrative officer, and Buck Kelley is chief facilities management officer.

Since January 2022, more than 30 capital investment projects totaling nearly \$185 million have been underway, including infrastructure and new building work on campus and at USA Health facilities. Examples include remodeling the space housing the Stokes School of Marine and Environmental Sciences, construction of the Freestanding Emergency Department in west Mobile, multiple projects at Children's & Women's Hospital and planning a new home for South's ROTC commands. Facilities Management is also playing a lead role in planning the new Frederick P. Whiddon College of Medicine building.

Student Financial Services disburses financial aid and scholarships to students. During the 2021-2022 academic year, it paid out grants, scholarships and loans totaling over \$125 million to more than 11,000 students.



BUILDERS' SALUTE The Alabama Chapter of the Associated General Contractors, a construction industry association, chose South as its Public Owner of the Year for 2023. The award recognizes public entities that contractors enjoy working for because of good management, innovation and contributions to the community. South's Facilities Department prides itself on managing all construction projects in-house.



NEW LEADER IN HUMAN RESOURCES John Elliott joined the University in October 2022 as the new chief human resources officer. Elliott previously held a similar role at the University of Toledo. He serves as the top human resources leader and principal advisor on human resources policy for University administration, and has spent much of his career in healthcare, academic medical centers and higher education.



ONLINE LEARNING Prior to the era of COVID-19, South classrooms were primarily equipped for in-person instruction. Since January 2022, the University has invested approximately \$3 million to equip more than 35 classrooms with high-fidelity lecture capture technology, upgraded displays, enhanced audio capabilities and re-configurable furniture to ensure that students have the best access to instructional material. Another \$1 million is allocated for upgrading 29 additional classrooms.



WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP A Driving Force at South

As the University of South Alabama began preparing to kick off its 60th Anniversary, one common theme appeared at almost every turn – a slate of women leaders emerging, from SGA president all the way to chair pro tempore of the University’s Board of Trustees.

In April 2022, Enterprise, Alabama, native Camille Bonura was elected SGA President. At the time, Ms. Bonura was a junior majoring in hospitality and sports management, and she followed another female SGA president, Grace Sekaya, who came to South from Gadsden, Alabama, but grew up in Togo, West Africa. Bonura has recently been succeeded by Amya Douglas, who arrived at South from Ocean Springs, Mississippi. In all, five women have been elected SGA presidents in consecutive years.

Dr. Andrea “Andi” M. Kent was named the campus’s first female executive vice president and provost in 2022. Kent had previously served as interim provost since 2020, and prior to that served as dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies. As interim provost, Kent implemented the Start South dual degree program that allows students at more than a dozen high schools to get a head start on their college education. She also was instrumental in the creation of the University’s Stokes School of Marine and Environmental Sciences, as well as expanding several new scholarship programs, including those based on need and others designed for active-duty military as well as law enforcement officers.

History was made again in June 2022 when Arlene Mitchell, a longtime supporter of USA, was unanimously elected the first female chair pro tempore of the USA Board. When she first joined the board in 2007, Mitchell was appointed to complete her husband’s unexpired term following his death that year.

In September 2022, then-National Alumni Association Vice President Kim Lawkis was elected NAA president. Lawkis has been active at South since she came to the Mobile campus as a first-generation college student from Scottsboro, Alabama, and she served as SGA President while a student. She is the chief operating officer for Feeding Alabama.

Other women in leadership roles at South include vice presidents Dr. Joél Billingsley, diversity and community engagement; Lynne Chronister, research and economic development; Margaret Sullivan, development and alumni; and Polly Stokely, finance and administration; along with General Counsel Kristin Dukes. Dr. Heather Hall serves as the dean of the College of Nursing and Dr. Susan Gordon-Hickey as dean in the Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health Professions. Members of the Board of Trustees for 2022-23, in addition to Mitchell, included Alexis Atkins as vice chair, along with Chandra Brown Stewart and Margie Malone Tuckson. Gov. Kay Ivey serves as ex officio president.









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