

SOUTH

USA NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Fall 2017



Pilot Program

**PILOT CATASTROPHE INVESTS IN STUDENTS AND REAPS BENEFITS,
JAGUARSCARE 2017, TRAVIS SWAGGERTY AND TEAM USA,
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS, A NIGHT HONORING HEROES**

The Fall 2017 issue of SOUTH is a publication of the Office of Alumni Relations and the USA National Alumni Association. It is intended to inform alumni and friends of current events and issues concerning them.

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South Alabama baseball standout brings Team USA spirit to the Jags.

23 A NIGHT HONORING HEROES

Medical Center gala honors first responders and hospital personnel who make up the Trauma team.



VIEW FROM THE BELL TOWER



Welcome Class





W

We are excited to welcome to campus the newest addition to the Jaguar family, the Class of 2021. And what a talented class it is! This year's freshman class has an average GPA of 3.6, which is the highest in the University's history. In addition, there are 164 new freshmen who earned ACT scores of 30 or above, a 24 percent increase over last fall.

Our freshman Jags kicked off their "Week of Welcome" with Move-In Day. Everyone from football players, to faculty members, to the Jaguar Marching Band helped move more than 1,200 freshmen into their new homes on the USA campus. Hundreds of USA students and employees unloaded suitcases, boxes and everything imaginable from packed vehicles and carried them into USA's 32 residence halls, much to the delight of the new students and to the relief of their families.

of 2021!

The highlight of the first week was participating in our newest tradition, Freshman Convocation. Beginning with their first official class portrait, students learned our Fight Song and Alma Mater, received invaluable advice from upperclassmen and distinguished alumni, and were treated to a special presentation by University President Dr. Tony Waldrop.

To the Class of 2021 we say welcome to South! Go Jags!

Karen Edwards '80
Director of Alumni Relations

Watch a video of Move In Day at bit.ly/USAMoveInDay2017.





South brings home Bubas Cup again

When the University of South Alabama baseball program earned the Sun Belt Conference tournament title, it not only delivered the Jaguars an automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament but the league's Vic Bubas Cup.

It's the third straight season USA has won the trophy, the first time the school has accomplished the feat since claiming three in a row from 1992-94.

In addition to baseball, which was runner-up in the regular-season standings, South's soccer program won both regular-season and tournament Sun Belt titles. Ten other Jag teams were among the top half of the standings in their sport including men's and women's cross country, volleyball, women's indoor track and field, men's and women's tennis, men's golf, softball, and men's and women's outdoor track and field.

"We are humbled, proud and honored to have earned the Vic Bubas Cup," said USA Director of Athletics Dr. Joel Erdmann. "This does not happen without the good, hard work and support of student-athletes, coaches, support staff, the University community and all members of the Jaguar Nation."



Dr. Kathy Cooke



Dr. Heather Hall



Dr. Harold Pardue

The University welcomed several new deans in the fall semester

USA announced the creation of the institution's first Honors College and selected a new dean to lead it. Dr. Kathy J. Cooke comes to South from Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Conn., where she served as the founding director of Quinnipiac's University Honors Program.

Dr. Heather Hall is interim dean of the University of South Alabama College of Nursing. Hall earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from South and her Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee Health Science

Center. She served as the USA College of Nursing associate dean for academic affairs and director of the nurse practitioner program.

Dr. J. Harold Pardue, a first-generation college student at the University of South Alabama who graduated in 1989, has been named dean of the University's Graduate School and associate vice president for academic affairs. Pardue has been a faculty member in South's School of Computing for 17 years.

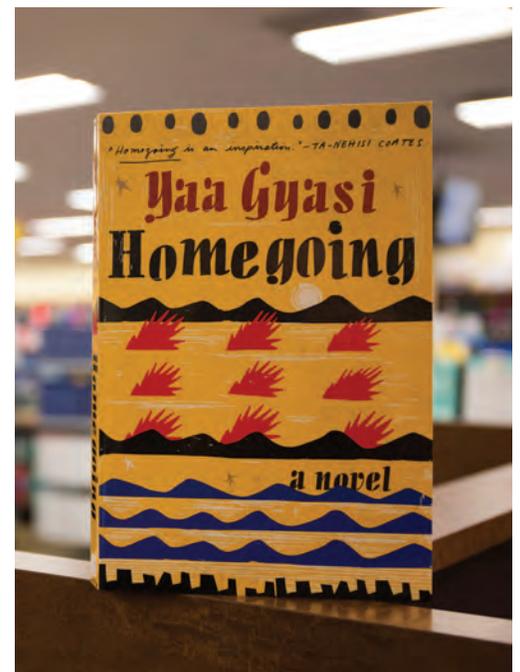
Common Read Committee selects *Homegoing* for 2017-18

USA's Common Read/Common World book selection for 2017-2018 is Yaa Gyasi's literary debut, *Homegoing*.

Homegoing follows two half-sisters who are born into different villages and unaware of the other. One will marry an Englishman and lead a life of comfort in the Cape Coast Castle, the other will be captured, imprisoned in the same castle, and sold into slavery. This story follows the paths of these sisters and their descendants through eight generations. Yaa Gyasi's extraordinary novel illuminates slavery's troubled legacy and shows how the memory of captivity has been inscribed on the soul of our nation.

The University of South Alabama brought the author to campus on November 16 where she spoke to students, faculty and staff as well as the Mobile community.

The Common Read is a voluntary program for all students, especially freshmen, that aims to improve understanding of differences and commonalities across the world while engaging in academic discourse and critical thinking. Throughout the year, students and faculty will interact with the book in a variety of academic settings.





Ron Graham, '90



Lenus M. Perkins, '91



Margie Malone Tuckson, '73



USA Medical Center Awarded \$4 Million for Trauma Center Expansion

Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey announced that \$4 million from an economic development bond issue will be directed to renovate and expand the hospital's Level I Trauma Center.

The funds will allow USA Medical Center to expand and modernize the current space, enhancing the hospital's ability to accommodate patients with traumatic injuries and respond to mass casualty situations in the region.

"We are proud to support the work of USA Medical Center as the region's only Level I trauma center," Gov. Ivey said. "This service is also vital to our state's economic development efforts, as corporations demand this level of care when they look to relocate to our state."

"We are proud to support the work of USA Medical Center as the region's only Level I trauma center."

—GOV. KAY IVEY

Governor appoints three new trustees

Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey has appointed three new members to the University of South Alabama Board of Trustees. In addition, two trustees, Dr. Steven P. Furr and Dr. Steven H. Stokes, were reappointed. The changes became official on Oct. 1.

The governor's new appointments are William Ronald "Ron" Graham of Andalusia, vice president of power supply for PowerSouth Energy Cooperative; Lenus M. Perkins of Birmingham, director of programs for Bhate Environmental Associates; and Margie Malone Tuckson of Sandy Springs, Ga., chief financial officer for Tuckson Health Connections.



Hollings scholars, Caroline Kolakoski and Dillon Blount are pictured with Dr. Sytske Kimball.

Hollings Scholars

Four University of South Alabama meteorology students are 2017 recipients of the prestigious Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarships awarded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). It's the largest number of South students to hold the Hollings scholarships in one year.

The four juniors are among 110 students selected from 64 universities across the nation and U.S. territories. "It is huge that we have four recipients in one year, and it is unusual that all four of them are studying meteorology," said Dr. Sytske Kimball, chair of earth sciences and professor of meteorology. "Being a Hollings recipient means recognition for each of these students, as well as for our department and the University."

The scholarships recognize high achievement in NOAA-related mission fields, including marine and atmospheric sciences, engineering, biology, chemistry, physics and math. Each recipient receives two years of tuition support and paid summer internships at NOAA facilities throughout the country.

South's Hollings recipients are: Caroline Kolakoski, Daphne, Ala.; Dillon Blount, Pelham, Ga.; Caitlin Ford, Peachtree City, Ga.; and Sam Sangster, Newnan, Ga.



Board of Trustee Scholar Ada Chaeli van der Zipp-Tan is pictured with her parents and board chairman Ken Simon.

Board of Trustees Scholar

University of South Alabama freshman Ada Chaeli van der Zipp-Tan, who graduated from high school with a 5.16 weighted GPA, has been named the USA Board of Trustees Scholar for the 2017-2018 academic year. A graduate of Bob Jones High School in Madison, Ala., van der Zipp-Tan registered a 34 composite ACT score, which is in the top one percent of all ACT test takers. She is majoring in biomedical sciences with an eye on becoming a physician.

"I was very impressed with USA when I visited the campus in 2013 in my freshman high school year. I also knew that I wanted to become a physician since I was in

middle school and that I wanted to attend an in-state university," van der Zipp-Tan said. "I chose USA from among other colleges because USA offers a quality medical graduate school program as well as a variety of undergrad programs."

The Board of Trustees Scholarship Program was created in 2014 after the trustees gave the University more than \$125,000, which was matched by the Mitchell-Moulton Scholarship Initiative, to create the USA Board of Trustees Scholarship. Each recipient is awarded a financial scholarship as a supplement to other scholarships or awards.

USA branding wins international award

The University of South Alabama Office of Marketing and Communications received international recognition for the USA Brand, a comprehensive branding initiative launched in 2016.

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), headquartered in Washington, D.C., named South Alabama a bronze award winner in its 2017 Circle of Excellence awards program. South's campaign competed against entries from 11 countries and more than 200 colleges and universities.





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USA UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
MITCHELL
CANCER INSTITUTE



Todd Hollis '15 (left) was hired as an intern by Miguel Sanchez '01 (right), head of technology at Pilot Catastrophe. Skills acquired through this internship led to a full-time employment for Todd.

“USA’s School of Computing and Pilot have a mutually beneficial relationship.”

—**RODNEY PILOT, PRINCIPAL PILOT CATASTROPHE**

Pilot Program

BENEFITS STUDENTS AND LOCAL BUSINESSES

After serving in the U.S. Coast Guard for 12 years, Todd Hollis '15 enrolled at USA on the GI Bill, studying Information Technology at the School of Computing. A strong student, Hollis was unsure about balancing an internship while maintaining good grades when Senior Instructor and Recruiting Coordinator Melissa Smith approached him about an internship with Pilot Catastrophe Services Inc., a national insurance adjusting firm based in Mobile. He took a chance, and

three months later, Pilot invited him to work part-time, then transition to a full-time employee after graduation.

Today, Hollis maintains Pilot’s Data Center. “Just about everything that Pilot does runs through there,” he explained. “I really lucked out that the opportunity came up at this level.”

More than luck, Hollis brought four years of experience to the position as a United States Coast Guard electronics technician, a good fit for his

Upward & Onward

A CAMPAIGN FOR
THE UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH ALABAMA

Campaign Update

“With partners like Pilot, our students gain skills that make them immediately competitive in the marketplace.”

—DR. ALEC YASINSAC, DEAN
USA SCHOOL OF COMPUTING

studies in Information Technology. “That degree directly translated into everything I do: operating systems, networking, how the Internet works, data packets delivered from origin to destination—it’s all really important to understand at a fundamental level,” he said. “I can’t think of a better degree that translates into what I do.”

However, the hands-on training was invaluable. “When I got to Pilot, I realized how much I didn’t know,” said Hollis. “IT changes so fast that we’re always thinking creatively. Projects and modifications come up so quickly, the solution has to be creative.”

And it’s an important part of today’s USA education. The School of Computing, through its Industry Partner Program, is helping connect students with meaningful work experiences and providing local industry with promising talent. Providing those experiences has been a part of the School of Computing’s mission since 1995, and similar programs have proven successful in other colleges. Through USA’s Internship and Co-Op program and the newly launched Office of Community Engagement, USA hopes to provide real-world experiences to students in all disciplines.

“Hands-on learning is pivotal to success in the modern classroom,” explained Dr. Alec Yasinsac, dean of the School of Computing. “In the School of Computing, we take the next step, partnering with our friends in industry to establish internship opportunities.”

“USA’s School of Computing and Pilot have a mutually beneficial relationship,” said Pilot Principal Rodney Pilot. “Students gain valuable experience that will lead to permanent employment, maybe with us, maybe with another firm. But Pilot also gains in this relationship. We get interns willing to work and learn, we get a seat on the school’s advisory board that gives

us input in curriculum, we get access to an educational lecture series for our employees, and we also participate in the School of Computing’s K-12 education program, giving us an impact on the community.”

Miguel Sanchez ’01 leads Pilot’s technology efforts. For Sanchez, the connection to USA is priceless. For example, when it’s busy at Pilot, interns augment the regular staff. The partnership with USA also gives Pilot employees access to outstanding educational resources. “The experience and expertise of the USA faculty is invaluable,” Sanchez said. “I seek their counsel regularly.” Pilot’s connection with USA is also an important recruiting tool. Sanchez is more likely to hire entry-level people who have gone through the internship program.

Students frequently learn new approaches during internships. “Lots of research expands their horizons,” said Jeff Holifield, an instructor in the School of Computing. “We can teach them how to develop an application and use basic tools, how different techniques can be used to do the same thing. They may have to learn a new (programming) language in the lab as they’re going, then apply that.” Recently, a group of interns partnered with software engineers at Pilot to develop a call center application currently in use at a Pilot facility.

“Our partnership with Pilot Catastrophe is a model for how to engage students, provide value to our industry partners, and to further the goals of the School of Computing and University of South Alabama that seek to have every student engage in a practicum during their undergraduate experience,” said Yasinsac. “We are very proud that, in conjunction with partners like Pilot, our students gain skills that make them immediately competitive in the marketplace and give them a great chance to be productive in society.”

For more information on the Industry Partners program at the USA School of Computing, contact Les Barnett at (251) 461-1601. For more information about USA’s internship programs, contact Rory Beaco in USA Career Services at (251) 460-6188.



Left: USA’s Coastal Weather Research Center is a valuable resource for Pilot Catastrophe, which responds to disasters, many weather-related, worldwide. Right: Pilot sponsors the School of Computing’s K-12 education program.

Upward & Onward

A CAMPAIGN FOR
THE UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH ALABAMA

Campaign Update

“Receiving the National Alumni Association Excellence in Faculty Innovation Award is a very special honor for us, not only because we are being recognized by our colleagues at USA, but it’s also very gratifying for our work to be acknowledged when there is so much other high-quality research and development going on at the University.”

—DR. KEVIN N. WEST

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Students Live and Learn with Cultural Immersion

During their time on campus, South Alabama undergraduates build the skills needed to be successful members of a global workforce. As work opportunities continue to become more diverse, South students have the opportunity to live and learn all over the world.

Students can choose from over 800 Study Abroad programs offered by the University. Through these opportunities USA students can be college students in a different country. Programs range from spending three weeks up to a full year with a partner university or program.

“It is important that students and faculty realize their place in the global society,” Assistant Professor of Russian Dr. Nicholas Gossett said. “Every job, no matter what it is, has some type of connection with people of another culture. Whether it be colleagues from Texas or clients from Tibet, being able to communicate and work within another culture is of the utmost importance.”

Gifts to the Upward & Onward campaign are funding Study Abroad scholarships and fellowships that are providing students greater access to being immersed in another culture.

“The number one deterrent for students going abroad is money,” Gossett said. “Scholarships help ease

the financial burden and make study abroad possible for many who wouldn’t otherwise be able to go.”

“My Study Abroad experience was very eye opening,” Study Abroad scholarship recipient Josie Schaefer said. “I was totally immersed in the Belize culture and was able to do all these things that I’d read about or seen on TV.”

South’s international studies programs let students earn University credit while creating lifelong memories. In turn, students will be able to draw from this experience as they embark on the working world.

“When we return to the classroom in Alabama, students are able to finally connect what we teach to what they experienced on the ground,” Gossett added. “This gives them more confidence and provides more opportunities for them to enhance their learning. South has to be actively engaged on a global stage so that the values and skills we give our students can be shared with the global community, and the industries here at home.”

The Upward & Onward campaign is creating pathways for South to make its mark on the world. This effort leads to partnerships that support their work both locally and abroad. Your support is what makes that possible.

ENHANCEMENT OF RESEARCH AND GRADUATE EDUCATION

USA Professors Develop Wearable Technology

USA researchers are developing the next generation of textiles and fibers with applications in high-performance sportswear, as well as military combat uniforms, and medical apparel and textiles. Assistant Professor Dr. T. Grant Glover and Professor Dr. Kevin N. West, both faculty in the Department of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering, received the National Alumni Association Excellence in Faculty Innovation Award for their research to integrate nanotechnology into textiles and fibers.

With funding from the Department of Defense and the University, Glover and West developed a method to attach gold nanoparticles, quantum dots and reactive structures to natural and synthetic fibers. “Functionalizing textiles at the nanoscale-level has broad applications for both military and consumer products,” said Glover. This includes development of next-generation military textiles that neutralize

chemical warfare agents and kill microbes, such as staph. More broadly this technology could find applications in high-performance sportswear or clothing that must be worn for extended periods of time.

“With textiles found almost everywhere, the potential societal and economic benefits from textiles modified at the surface level could be enormous,” explained Glover. Testing done by research partners in government labs shows promising results, with plans in progress to transition the technology for consumer products.

“When the initial data indicated that the simple and industrially relevant chemistry that we’re using was working highly effectively, we began brainstorming about other potential uses for the technology, and we’re still coming up with new potential uses,” said West.

EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH CARE

Patient Care is top priority for USAMC

Nestled in the heart of Mobile, where oversized oak trees line the streets, is a bustling center that is always ready to help our neighbors during their greatest time of need. The USA Medical Center (USAMC) is fully equipped to take on our region's toughest medical emergencies as it is a Level I trauma center, burn center and stroke center. A leader in serving health care needs, USAMC exemplifies why Excellence in Health Care is a major component of the University of South Alabama's Upward & Onward campaign.

South has embarked on a multifaceted fundraising campaign that will elevate every aspect of the University by raising \$150 million by 2020. Through this campaign, USA's health care centers will be able to continue to enhance patient outcomes and satisfaction, educate and train the next generation of health care providers and heighten research for innovative treatments.

Ashley Lee, BSN '02, is a South alum who's dedicated 15 years to the USAMC while spending the last five as the emergency department nurse manager. She is on the front lines for critical patient care and represents South's commitment to improving its health care for us all.

"We are family here in the hospital and all across the campuses of USA," Lee said. "It's such an honor to know that the USA Medical Center is being supported by our community. We take pride in the quality of care we can offer our community, and to know they in turn are willing to support our efforts to grow is amazing."

The award-winning USAMC trauma, stroke and burn centers provide services that no other hospital within hundreds of miles can.

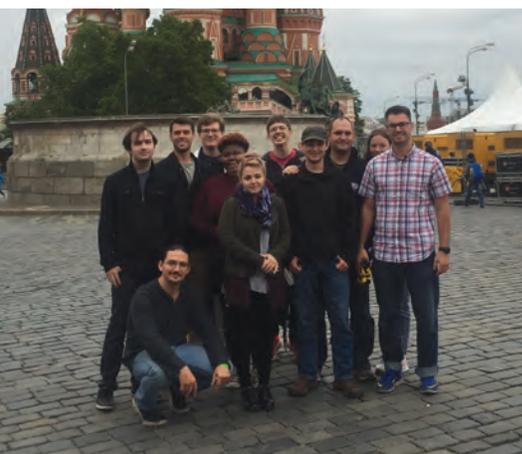
"We have services available to the community that you can't find anywhere else in our region," Lee added. "We have a fully functional operating room that includes a board-certified trauma surgeon and trauma team in addition to orthopedic surgery, neurosurgery, and other specialties 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year."

Patient care remains a top priority in all of South's medical facilities.

"I believe we provide the best health care in the city," Lee said. "I love going to work every day, and there are many more who feel the same way. I think the love we have for the Medical Center is why we are able to provide the level of care we do."



Dr. Nicholas Gossett '06, Assistant Professor of Russian at USA



USA students traveled to Moscow in June 2017.



Dr. Kevin N. West and Dr. T. Grant Glover



Ashley Lee, BSN '02

Upward & Onward

A CAMPAIGN FOR
THE UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH ALABAMA

Campaign Update

“I’m the first person in my family to have the opportunity to go to college and will be the first in my extended family to earn a college degree. I credit the scholarships I was offered with helping make this dream come true.”

—JOCELYN MEDINA '18

STUDENT ACCESS AND SUCCESS

Turning Dreams Into Reality

Growing up in Alabaster, Ala., Jocelyn Medina admits she didn't know much about South when she started thinking about applying to colleges. Now in her senior year, Medina says choosing South is one of the best decisions she has ever made.

“I’m the first person in my family to have the opportunity to go to college and will be the first in my extended family to earn a college degree,” said Medina. “I credit the scholarships I was offered with helping make this dream come true.”

Being able to attend college is still a dream for many young adults like Medina. However, through its Upward & Onward campaign, South is working to give more students the opportunity to earn their college degree.

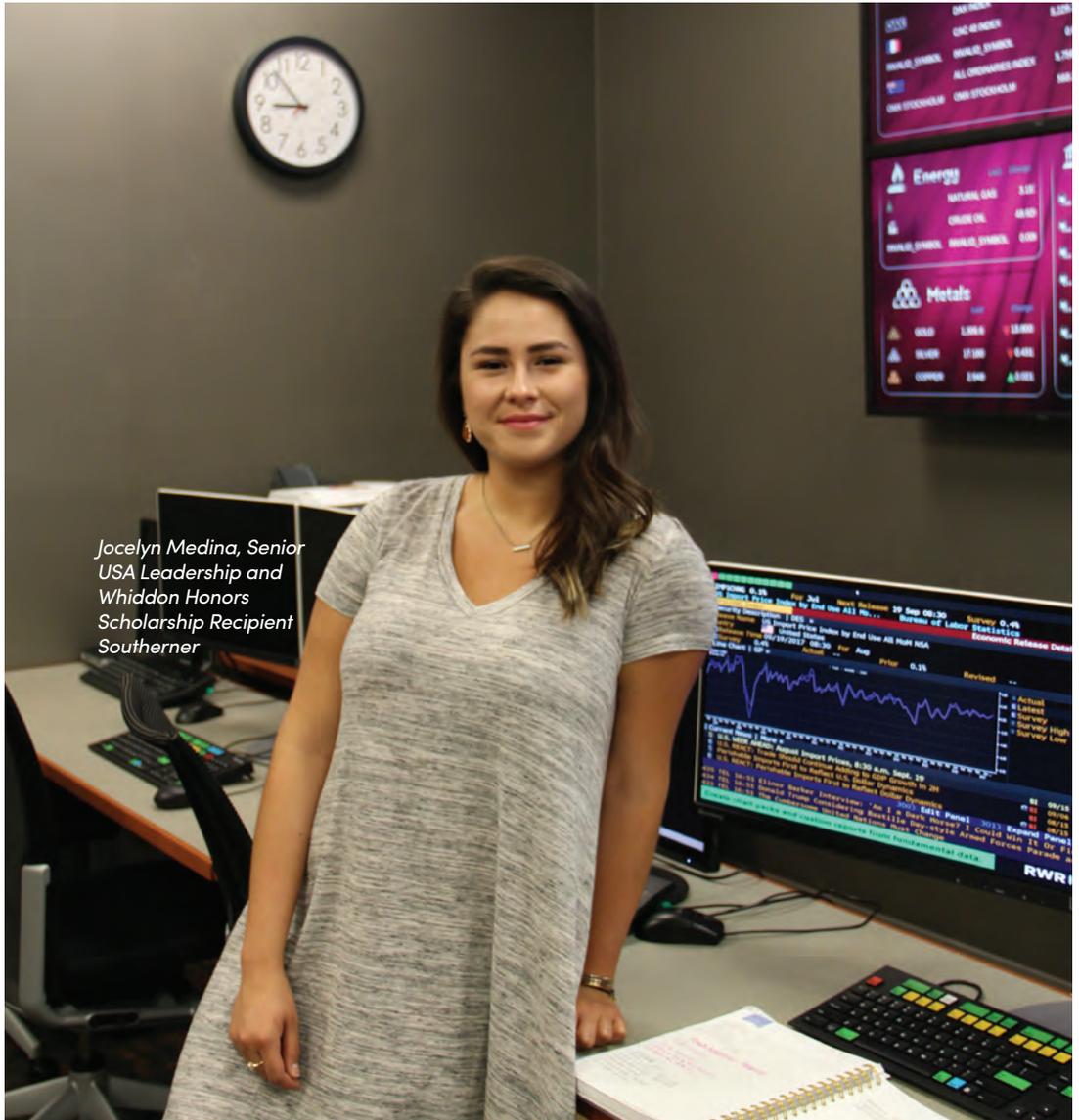
The most significant way that South is moving Upward & Onward is by investing in the educational achievement of its students. More than \$50 million of the campaign's \$150 million goal is earmarked for student access and success, intensifying the focus on creating a path for students to reach higher education.

Medina doesn't take for granted the chance given to her by USA scholarship donors.

“I’m so grateful to have received USA Leadership and Whiddon Honors scholarships,” said Medina. “I don't even know where I'd begin to thank everyone who's invested in me by giving to South. To know someone was willing to invest in the future of someone they don't know, I realize how fortunate I am to be in this position. And it's all because of alumni and other USA supporters.”

As her undergraduate years come to a close, Jocelyn has reflected on what her time in Mobile will mean for her future. The finance major is considering pursuing an MBA from USA's Mitchell College of Business to extend her education.

“I know when I graduate I will look back at South as my home and as the place that defined the beginning of the pathway into my future,” said Medina. “My USA degree will show the hard work I've put in, but also the hard work someone else has put in to make it possible for me to call South Alabama home.”



Jocelyn Medina, Senior USA Leadership and Whiddon Honors Scholarship Recipient Southerner

Campaign Statistics

STUDENT ACCESS AND SUCCESS

Priority 1 Goal:

\$56
MILLION

181
NEW
SCHOLARSHIPS
ENDOWED

166
SCHOLARSHIP
ENDOWMENTS
ENHANCED

\$36,793,773

RAISED FOR UNDERGRADUATE
SCHOLARSHIPS

\$28,320

RAISED FOR UNDERGRADUATE
OR GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

ENHANCEMENT OF RESEARCH AND GRADUATE EDUCATION

Priority 2 Goal:

\$10
MILLION

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Priority 4 Goal:

\$3
MILLION

296

STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN STUDY
ABROAD PROGRAMS 2016-2017

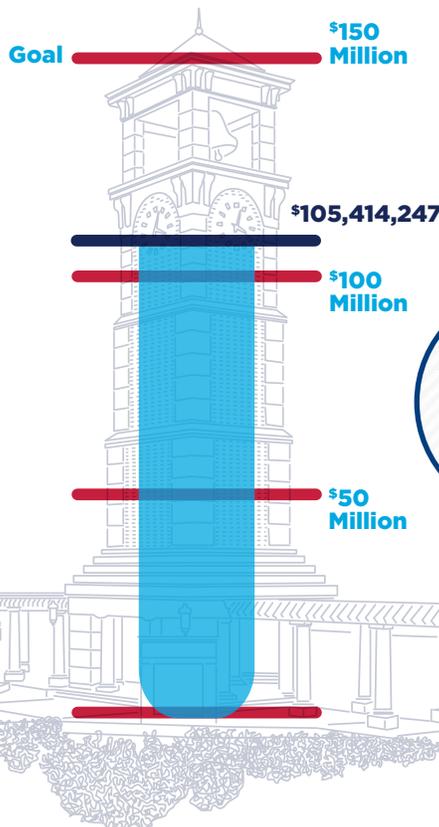
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COUNTRIES IN WHICH USA STUDENTS
MAY STUDY ABROAD



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Visit southalabama.edu/departments/development or call (251) 460-7032.



\$150
MILLION
GOAL

69%
RAISED

6,832
ALUMNI
DONORS

\$3,023,319
EMPLOYEE GIVING
TO CAMPAIGN

\$105,414,247
RAISED

EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH CARE

Priority 4 Goal:

\$18.5
MILLION

UNIVERSITY-COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Priority 5 Goal:

\$7.5
MILLION

2017 Distinguished Alumni Awards



Dr. Pat C. Covey and Leeman Covey

“Selfless service” has been used many times to describe Dr. Pat C. Covey, who retired from USA after more than 33 years as a faculty member, dean and administrator, and her husband, Lee Covey, whose nonprofit foundation supports higher education through innovative housing initiatives.

Pat Covey began at South as an assistant professor charged with creating the department of medical technology, which became the department of clinical laboratory sciences. She served as professor and chair of the department, professor of biomedical sciences, founding dean of the Pat C. Covey College of Allied Health Professions and senior vice president for academic affairs.

She further distinguished herself and South nationally through leadership roles in the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions, the Southern Association of Allied Health Deans and the Alabama Chief Academic Officers, and through her exemplary service to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for university accreditation.

Lee Covey founded the country’s first nonprofit student housing provider in 1996.

The couple made a \$2 million estate gift to establish an endowed scholarship program in honor of Lee Covey in the College of Allied Health Professions. In 2010, the Board of Trustees named the College of Allied Health Professions in honor of Dr. Covey for her leadership and distinguished service to the University of South Alabama.



Dr. John S. Meigs Jr. ’79

Dr. John S. Meigs Jr., family physician and member of the Alabama Healthcare Hall of Fame, has distinguished himself locally, regionally and nationally throughout his medical career.

A graduate of the College of Medicine at the University of South Alabama, Meigs served as president of the Alabama Academy of Family Physicians, Speaker of the House of Delegates and College of Counselors of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama and the Board of Censors of MASA.

He served on the Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners, and chaired the Alabama State Committee on Public Health. From 2011 to 2015, Meigs served as Speaker of the Congress of Delegates of the American Association of Family Physicians and served as president from 2016-2017.



Vice Admiral William “Dean” Lee ’79 (USCG Retired)

Vice Admiral William “Dean” Lee retired from the U.S. Coast Guard in 2016 as the Atlantic Area Commander, responsible for all missions ranging from the Rocky Mountains to the Arabian Gulf, spanning five Coast Guard districts and 40 states, overseeing 60 percent of the Coast Guard, including 21,000 active duty members and thousands of reservists and civilian employees.

At the same time, he also served as Commander, Defense Force East and provided Coast Guard mission support to the U.S. Department of Defense and the Combatant Commanders. Concurrently, he served as director of the Department of Homeland Security Joint Task Force-East, responsible for achieving the objectives of the DHS Southern Border and Approaches Campaign Plan, including oversight of the joint interagency maritime Counter Narcotics and Alien Migration missions. From 2014-2016, elements of Lee’s task force interdicted 8,000 illegal immigrants, arrested 340 smugglers and seized nearly 100 metric tons of cocaine and other illicit drugs valued at \$2.9 billion.

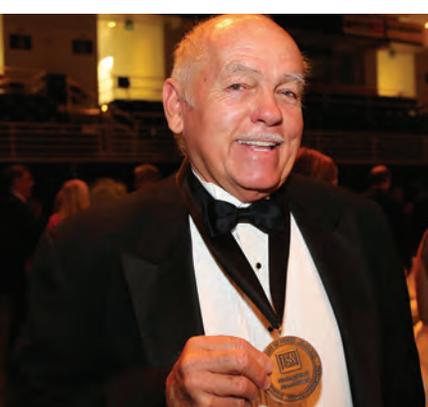
Lee’s military awards include the Department of Homeland Security’s Distinguished Service Medal, five Legions of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two Meritorious Service Medals, three Coast Guard Commendation Medals and two Coast Guard Achievement Medals.

James “Jim” L. Busby MBA ’83

James “Jim” L. Busby, chairman and CEO of Centralite Systems, is a “serial entrepreneur” who took his first company public and whose present company is one of Alabama’s top job producers.

In 1977, the electrical engineer began QMS, a laser printer manufacturing company, in his home with a \$10,000 bank loan. Only a few years later, QMS went public and three years after that, it was listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

Busby founded Centralite Systems in 1997. The company manufactures an ecosystem of reliable, wirelessly connected devices including device drivers, controllers, interfaces and other software applications that connect and integrate with the cloud for advanced control, monitoring and analytics.





Dr. Pat C. Covey and Leeman Covey



Dr. John S. Meigs, Jr. M.D. '79



Vice Admiral William "Dean" Lee (USCG Retired) '79



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3,939
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JaguarsCare

Now in its fourth year, the JaguarsCare service initiative brings together hundreds of alumni, students, faculty and staff volunteers to make an impact in their local communities - all in the name of the University of South Alabama. Thank you to the thousands of Jaguars who gave their time and talent to the 2017 JaguarsCare initiative. The program's impact was felt not only

throughout our local community, but regionally and nationally as well.

To learn more about how you can get involved in the JaguarsCare service initiative, contact Ailey Shirazi, assistant director of Alumni Relations, at (251) 460-7084 or shirazi@southalabama.edu.



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Playing For a Nation

TRAVIS SWAGGERTY IS THE
FIRST STUDENT-ATHLETE
AT SOUTH TO PLAY FOR
TEAM USA

Growing up in Louisiana, University of South Alabama baseball outfielder Travis Swaggerty thought playing summer ball in the prestigious Cape Cod Baseball League would be “awesome,” but playing for his country never entered his mind. Then he received an invitation from the USA Baseball Collegiate National Team.

Swaggerty played in 19 games for Team USA this past summer and ranked second on the team in hits (21) and on-base percentage (.449). He finished third in stolen bases (6) and batting average (.328). The Mandeville, La., native helped Team USA to a 15-5 record over 20 contests.

“It’s such a big deal because he represented the University of South Alabama and his country,” South Alabama head coach Mark Calvi said. “There really isn’t a higher honor in baseball than that.” Swaggerty is the first student-athlete from the University of South Alabama to play for Team USA.

But Swaggerty not only played, he also produced. He led Team USA in batting average (.417) in a four-game sweep of Chinese Taipei after finishing 5-for-12 with one double, one triple, one RBI, two runs scored and a team-high four stolen bases. He followed that series with a .429 batting average in four games against Cuba and led the squad in doubles (2), RBI (4) and OBP (.500).

During Swaggerty’s sophomore campaign in 2017, he earned second-team All-America honors from the American Baseball Coaches Association/Rawlings and first-team all-Sun Belt Conference accolades after leading the league in on-base percentage (.484) – which ranked 12th nationally – RBI (60) and runs scored (55), ranked second in batting average (.363) and total bases (125), and fourth in stolen bases (19). He helped lead South Alabama to its first SBC Tournament title

since 2005, where he was named to the SBC All-Tournament team and its second straight NCAA postseason appearance.

But beyond the numbers, Swaggerty feels he gained experience and knowledge that can help carry his teammates at South Alabama to another level.

“If I can just take my approach and tell other guys what I see, I can almost be like a coach on the field,” he said. “I can be more of a leader vocally than I was before. If I can just rub off on them enough so we’re just one big unit and we’re all thinking the same way, then it’s going to be dangerous.”

Swaggerty may have more exciting moments. He is draft-eligible this season as a junior at South Alabama and has driven his draft stock higher with his performance with Team USA.

Baseball America ranked him the No. 7 college prospect for the 2018 Major League Baseball Draft. If that ranking holds, Swaggerty would become the first Jaguar selected in the first round of the MLB Draft since Pat Putnam was taken with the 22nd overall pick of the 1975 draft by the Texas Rangers.

But Swaggerty’s focus is on the College World Series.

“That’s the goal,” he said. “I can’t think about the (MLB) draft. It’s hard not to, but all I have to do is focus on winning and getting the program over the hump. I want to win and put us on ESPN in a Super Regional. This is the team to do it.”



“I can’t think about the (MLB) draft. It’s hard not to, but all I have to do is focus on winning and getting the program over the hump, I want to win and put us on ESPN in a Super Regional. This is the team to do it.”

—TRAVIS SWAGGERTY

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OCTOBER 10, 2017



“Travelers
(rely solely on bottled
water and) leave a trail
of plastic breadcrumbs
across the continent,
which is expensive
and wasteful.”

—TRAVIS MERRIGAN '00



The Holy Grayl

SOUTH GRAD INVENTS A PORTABLE SYSTEM FOR PURIFYING WATER

Travis Merrigan '00 turned his interest in science and travel into designing an essential item for every adventure traveler: a portable water filter and purifier. Merrigan's travels influenced the creation of the Grayl bottle, which now sells in 250 U.S. stores and internationally.

When traveling to developing countries people consider items they might need, Merrigan said. But they usually don't anticipate a need for clean water; therefore, relying solely on bottled water after arriving. "Travelers leave a trail of plastic breadcrumbs across the continent, which is expensive and wasteful," Merrigan said.

After receiving a degree in chemistry at the University of South Alabama, Merrigan earned a master's from the University of Chicago with focuses on international relations and political science.

Slowly, beginning in 2011, Merrigan and co-founder Nancie Weston began developing what

would become Grayl. He rapidly sped up the process in 2013 within a period of one week. "I quit my job, got married to my lovely wife, Erika, moved to Seattle and started full-time with Grayl."

In the first year Merrigan said Grayl's sales were shy of \$200,000. For now, Merrigan is comfortable with Grayl's status — "still not the biggest, but our competitors know who we are" — as the company continues to develop its niche. Grayl is sold on the company's website and through retailers, including Pacific Northwest-based REI. It retails for \$59.50.

Merrigan said Grayl is unique among the competition for two reasons: Its one-press design pushes water through the cartridge, and its use as both a filter and purifier. The product is promoted as making "clean, purified drinking water (in less than 15 seconds) from virtually any fresh water source in the world."



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Homecoming Highlights 2017



The Class of '67 Golden Jaguars celebrated their 50th anniversary and were honored at a dinner during Homecoming week.



A woman with long blonde hair is smiling warmly at a baby she is holding. The baby is wearing a blue and pink striped onesie. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue with large, overlapping circular shapes in shades of blue.

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