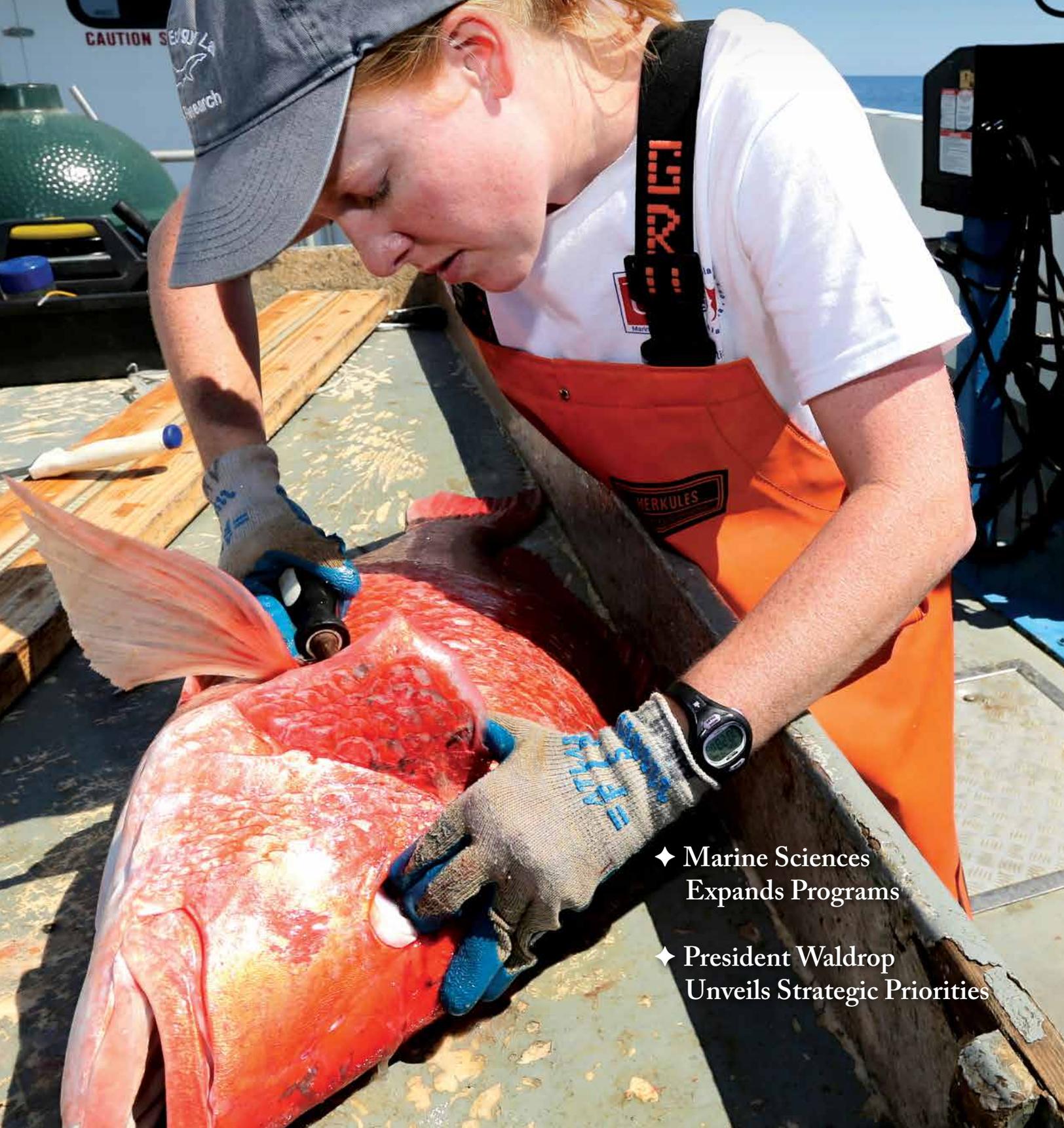


# Looking South

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

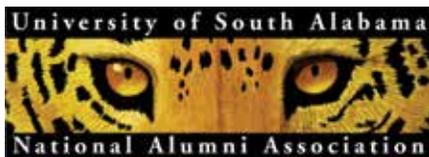
NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Spring 2015



◆ Marine Sciences  
Expands Programs

◆ President Waldrop  
Unveils Strategic Priorities



The Spring 2015 issue of *Looking 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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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**March 5, 2015** Distinguished Alumni & Service Awards Gala, USA Mitchell Center

**March 5, 2015** National Alumni Association Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting, USA Mitchell Center

**March 6, 2015** USA Board of Trustees Quarterly Meeting, Mobile, AL

**March 12-15, 2015** Sun Belt Conference Basketball Tournament, New Orleans, LA

**April 1, 2015** Port City Chapter Sips for Scholarships, Legacy Bar & Grill, Mobile, AL

**April 18, 2015** JaguarsCare National Day of Service

**April 18, 2015** Oozeball, Sponsored by USA Southerners, Mobile, AL

**April 30, 2015** Baldwin County Chapter Spring Fling, Timbercreek Golf Club, Spanish Fort, AL

**May 9, 2015** Commencement, USA Mitchell Center

**May 14, 2015** Hope Cup Golf Tournament, Mobile Country Club

**June 5, 2015** USA Board of Trustees Quarterly Meeting, Mobile, AL

**June 11, 2015** Baldwin County Chapter Meet the Coaches

**June 12, 2015** National Alumni Association Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting, Mobile, AL

*For more information on any of these events, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 251.460.7084.*

*On the cover:*

Andrea Kroetz, a PhD candidate in Dr. Sean Powers' Fisheries Ecology Lab, removes Red Snapper otoliths (ear bones) for aging purposes.





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2014 MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

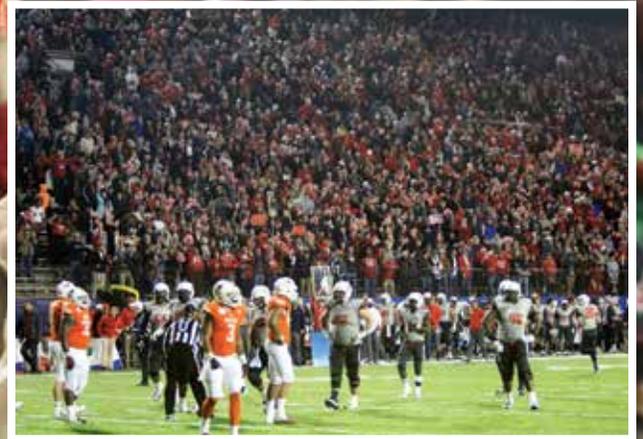
## MISSION: MONTGOMERY

The South Alabama Jaguar football team made history this season by not only receiving its first-ever postseason bowl invitation, but by its selection to play in the inaugural Raycom Media Camellia Bowl!

This is the Jaguars' sixth season of competition, and just its second as a full-fledged NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision member; it's the fastest an FBS program has been invited to participate in a bowl game. USA was also eligible to participate in a bowl last fall after finishing 6-6, and has an all-time mark of 37-27 over six seasons – all under Head Coach Joey Jones.

The Jags played before a crowd of more than 20,000 fans at the Cramton Bowl in Montgomery, Ala., and more than 1 million watched the game on ESPN. While the outcome was not what we had hoped for, as the Jags lost to Bowling Green 33-28 in the last few minutes of the game, we couldn't be more proud of the team and the way the players represented the University in Montgomery and across the nation.

And to you, our alumni and fans, thank you for your support of this phenomenal team, Coach Jones and the University of South Alabama! We're already looking forward to next season!



*Before the game, USA President Tony Waldrop, senior administration and trustees volunteered at the Montgomery Food Bank.*



# USA Establishes Strategic



*Dr. Julee Waldrop looks on as USA President Tony Waldrop expressed his thanks for the dedication offered by alumni at the Distinguished Alumni and Service Awards Gala.*

USA President Tony Waldrop announced at his September 2014 inauguration that the University community would focus on five strategic priorities in the years ahead. The priorities, as outlined in his inaugural address, are: student success and access; enhancement of graduate education and research; global engagement; excellence in health care; and university-community engagement. Since then, the University's leadership has been building a foundation that will help USA achieve these goals.

“Success in these five priorities will provide the pathway for meeting our vision, which is that the University of South Alabama will be a leading comprehensive public university internationally recognized for

educational, research and health care excellence as well as for its positive intellectual, cultural and economic impact on those it serves,” Waldrop told the inaugural audience of University trustees, administrators, faculty, staff, students, alumni and community leaders.

To further develop these five priorities, Waldrop held town hall meetings across the University to listen to suggestions from faculty, staff and students. He noted that the priorities he outlined are drawn from the institutional strategic plan passed by the Board of Trustees in 2013. They also are priorities that will align USA to the needs of its students and its community.

“These priorities, or versions of them, are things I thought about before I even came to USA. Actually, I’ve thought about them throughout my career,” said Waldrop, who has worked in higher education for more than 30 years. “It wasn’t a surprise to see similar ideas included in the strategic plan passed by the trustees because all public universities should be thinking about these things.”

Waldrop added: “On all five priorities, USA was already doing many things, but the challenge was to examine each priority, look at ways of expanding what we were already doing, and to implement new ideas and ways to do things better.”

The next step was to bring USA’s administrators, deans, department heads and other campus leaders to the table to discuss and outline how the priorities would become part of everyday life at USA. Five working committees composed of members of the leadership team, each chaired by a University vice president, were appointed. Participants learned quickly that Waldrop, an advocate of the team approach, appreciated their institutional knowledge and encouraged them to explore new solutions.



*The Waldrops hosted student leaders at the President’s House in Spring Hill.*



# Priorities, Charts a Course for the Future

Dr. David Johnson, USA's provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, described how the process has worked.

"Each committee met and drafted a plan on how we, as an institution, can advance the priorities in the near future," Johnson said. "In many cases, the committees have brought in others in the University to assist with our planning efforts."

Johnson added, "We are setting ambitious targets and will work hard to meet them. For each of these priorities, it will require the entire University community working together for us to be successful, and I'm very optimistic that will happen. This is a very exciting process, and I'm proud to be a part of it."

Lynne Chronister, vice president for research and economic development, said the priorities focusing on faculty research will enhance USA's Carnegie-designated status as a high-research university.

"USA is gaining prominence through the excellent research conducted by our faculty and by our graduate students. We are excited about growing our research opportunities and creating graduate programs that will reflect national needs," Chronister said.

Dr. Julie Estis, president of the Faculty Senate, serves on two committees – global engagement, and student success and access – and she describes both as successful works in progress.

"From my perspective, Dr. Waldrop solicits broad input; he's very interested in what the faculty thinks about different initiatives, and he listens very carefully to input from the faculty," Estis said. She said the administrative leadership also spent time with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee talking about the five priorities.

"This approach to setting five priorities for the institution, then following up with measureable outcomes for us to have collective input on where we're going as an institution is a very new thing for our faculty to have," said Estis. "I feel very positive about how the process is moving forward, and I'm looking forward to it continuing to grow and to expand to an even more collective effort with more people included."

Some of the changes already under way, or being considered, include:

- Improving student retention rates by increasing the number of professional advisors and creating a first-year advising center, implementing data



*New USA President Tony Waldrop speaks at the inauguration.*

analytics software to provide better information to assist academic advisors, mentoring of individual minority students, and finding new ways to ensure students can graduate in their chosen field within four years.

- Increasing faculty achievement in research by selectively investing in faculty reassignment from teaching to research.
- An immediate increase in the number of study abroad students, and growing USA's involvement with institutions of higher education abroad, including in China, Bangladesh and Cuba.
- Enhancing exceptional patient quality outcomes for USA hospitals, clinics and the Mitchell Cancer Institute in comparison to peer groups, and increasing the number of patients who would recommend the USA Health System.
- Defining a mission statement for greater engagement among the community and the University faculty, staff and students, with the goal of significantly increasing interaction and service within three years.

Waldrop said he is pleased with the initial work and results on the five priorities, and he looks forward to more positive outcomes.

"The committees are continuing their work and exploring ways to annually review where we are," he said. "We're definitely moving in the right direction in these key areas, and over time we know we will make a difference by staying committed to these goals."

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# J♥GUARSCARE

## National Day of Service

April 18, 2015

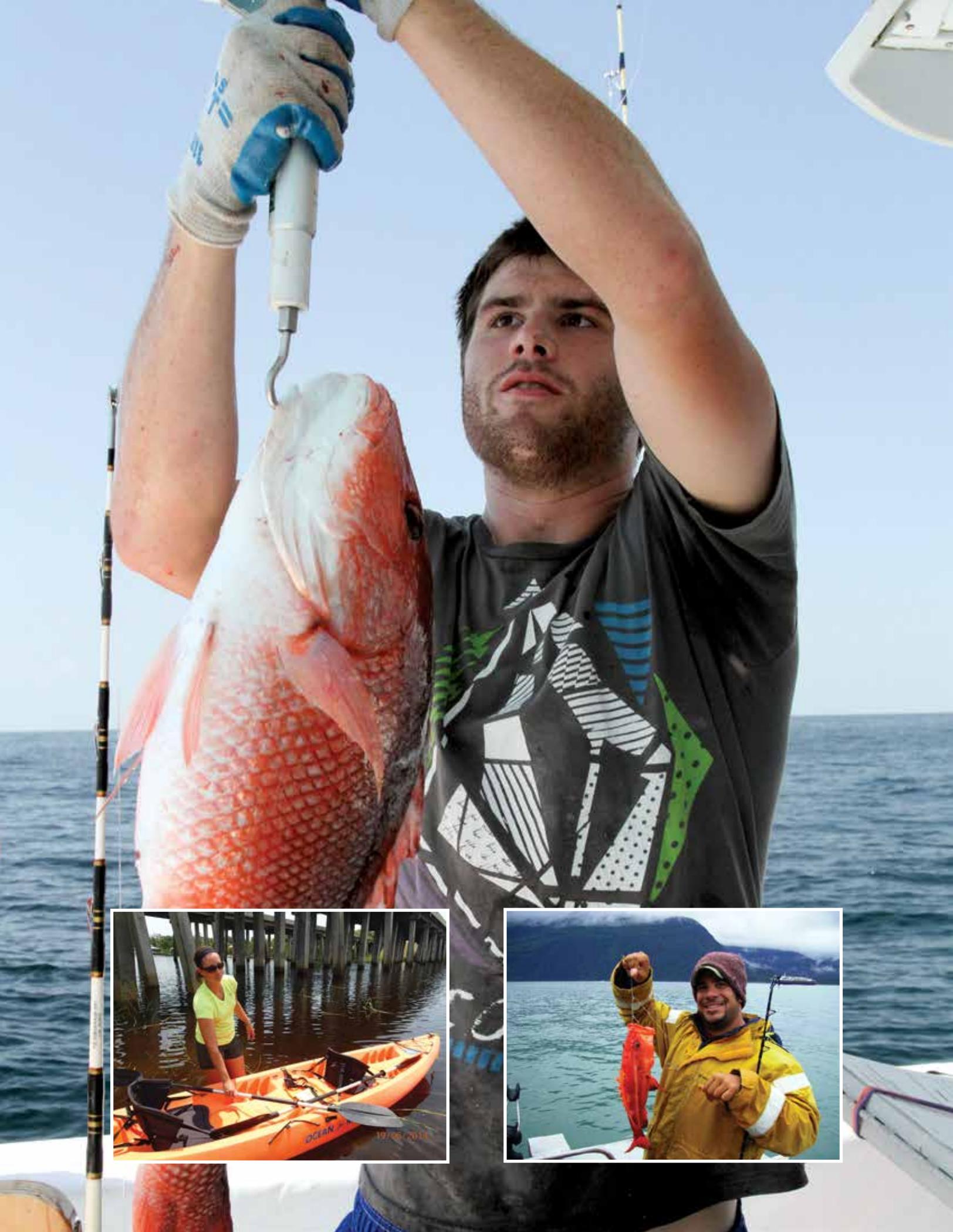


Throughout the nation, USA alumni are making a difference every day. JaguarsCare National Day of Service brings together hundreds of alumni volunteers to make an impact in their local communities - all in the name of the University of South Alabama, all on one day: **April 18, 2015**. In the 2014 inaugural year, there were 31 projects, three of them international, 21 alumni chapters participating, 174 participants and more than 780 hours of service performed.

While one day of service cannot meet every need in every community, bringing South Alabama alumni together to make a difference at one time can have a substantial impact on both the individuals involved in this shared experience and the greater community. Projects will be alumni-led and reflect the diversity of alumni interests and passions. We encourage **alumni chapters and groups** to rally together for larger projects and **individuals to participate in smaller communities** and report their individual projects. Some projects will be big, some will be small, and **together...their impact will be great.**

To register **YOUR** project, please contact Ailey Shirazi at [shirazi@southalabama.edu](mailto:shirazi@southalabama.edu). Remember - no project is too small!







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# Making a Big Splash

## WITH NEW PROGRAMS

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In response to growing student interest and USA President Tony Waldrop's plan to expand University programs, the Department of Marine Sciences has added an undergraduate minor in Marine Sciences as well as a master's degree in Marine Conservation and Resource Management developed for professional rather than academic careers.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Waldrop specifically mentioned Marine Sciences as a sector targeted for growth and a strategic area where USA can fulfill a vital need. It is also an opportunity to achieve growth for the University by expanding its mission with the new academic programs.

After two decades of serving only graduate students, the Department of Marine Sciences welcomes its first undergraduate minor students in the Fall of 2015. The program will allow students interested in a variety of marine animals (sharks, dolphins, fish), marine processes (chemical and geological cycles), and environmental sustainability to cultivate those interests into career paths. "If a student is fascinated and interested, they will learn a tremendous amount," said Department Chair Dr. Sean Powers.

The new program is also a good recruiting tool for the University, and interest from incoming students seems high, said Dr. Powers. An especially attractive feature of the program is the Dauphin Island Sea Lab where the

freshmen introductory students will visit and juniors and seniors will take their elective courses, many of which involve oceanographic cruises or day trips working in coastal Alabama. "Other schools can do field trips," explained Dr. Powers. "We can take them out in the field every day and fully integrate the ocean environment in the learning process. No other program in the state can do that. That will set our program apart."

The new minor also serves as an introduction to careers in Marine Sciences, and applies the skills of chemistry, geology, physics, biology and business to marine-related issues. By complementing these major programs, students gain an environmental focus with a broad interdisciplinary perspective. A diverse background also makes the students more marketable. "You usually need some post-graduate training if you're going to call yourself a marine scientist," said Dr. Powers. "Employers will look for biology or chemistry credentials first, then the marine sciences credentials."

The new master's degree in Marine Conservation and Resource Management fills the need for a professionally trained workforce with advanced science and technology skills, not necessarily academic researchers who spend time in laboratories, explained Dr. Powers. Students in the new program will work in teams, understand group dynamics and hone problem-solving skills. They will

have presentation and writing skills, as well as knowledge of policies, interpersonal dynamics and economics.

"We know there is a huge market for these types of services," Dr. Powers said. "The program focuses on the professional development of students who want to enter the workforce immediately and have an immediate impact."

While it does not require thesis research, the program does include an internship with a





marine environmental resource agency or an environmental consulting group. There is also a capstone group project that runs for the duration of the master's program.

USA's new degree was modeled after similar programs at the University of California at Santa Barbara and Duke University. "We can deliver that at a much more reasonable price that makes this level of professional development accessible," said Dr. Powers. It also allows for an increased number of master's-level students, as finances and faculty resources limit the existing master's program. Students can enroll in the new master's program in the Fall of 2015 and Dr. Powers expects an enrollment of five to ten students each academic year.

In a survey of recent graduates, Dr. Powers said the USA doctoral graduates were finding jobs, but not immediately. Master's graduates quickly found jobs with good starting salaries, though often in non-academic settings such as non-governmental organizations, environmental consulting firms or natural resources agencies. "The fact they had quantitative skills made them most attractive to the employers," said Dr. Powers. A survey of employers showed that graduates would be even more attractive if they possessed field experience and group dynamics skills, factors built into the new degree program.

Finally, the new program is responsive to the current job market in that it can be changed quickly to meet emerging needs, explained Dr. Powers. It also serves the needs of students already in the workforce by offering classes early and late in the day, as many degree inquiries come from those currently employed in state, federal or non-governmental agencies who want to continue working while earning their degrees.



## Kiene receives research award



*Dr. Ron Kiene drives a Zodiac rubber boat to collect water samples near Palmer Station along the Antarctic Peninsula.*

The Olivia Rambo McGlothren National Alumni Association Outstanding Scholar Award is presented each year to an outstanding faculty member by the USA National Alumni Association for high achievements in the realm of research. Dr. Ron Kiene, professor of marine sciences, has twice received the award, once in 2000 and again in 2014. He attributes this to his long research and funding record from the National Science Foundation and other agencies, and his active publishing record.

"Ron is probably one of the most brilliant scientists I've ever met," stated Department Chair Dr. Sean Powers. "And I've met a lot of scientists."

Dr. Kiene's research focuses on how microbes in the ocean produce and transform the sulfur gas dimethylsulfide in the ocean. His work has taken him and his students on research cruises ranging as far as Antarctica and as near as the Gulf of Mexico. He specializes in developing and applying sensitive methods to measure the sulfur compound and its cycling rates. This information is used to determine the role of dimethylsulfide in global geochemistry and in climate change.

Students have always been an important part of Dr. Kiene's research team. Involving the students not only teaches them, but also prepares them for the future. "That's our role here," said Dr. Kiene. "To do research, but with students, to train the next generation of scientists to take over and do the work that needs to be done."

With such a strong research record, Dr. Kiene selected USA from a long list of universities interested in adding him as a faculty member. "His presence at USA during the early and mid 1990s gave immediate credibility to the program. As an oceanographer, he's the best known in our department," said Dr. Powers. "He's achieved pretty much everything you could possibly want a researcher to do."

In the classroom, Dr. Kiene's course load includes Chemical Oceanography, which Dr. Powers' described as the department's toughest course. "His students routinely sing his praises," Dr. Powers said. But work outside the classroom is just as important. "The real crux of an advanced degree in our field is really research-related, a research product that's novel and making a contribution to science," said Dr. Kiene. "We help them be prepared to move on and take other positions down the road."



# Big Fish in the Pond

Marine Sciences students study both on the main campus and at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. While the main campus offers resources for both physiological and biochemical research, DISL also offers access to coastal and near shore marine habitats, including a tidal delta, estuarine salt marshes, oyster reefs, sea grass habitats, low-to-high-energy shorelines, and barrier islands. Not only is this one of the nation's richest estuarine systems, but this natural resource is also an economic development powerhouse for the region, meeting seafood, employment and tourism needs.

DISL offers two research vessels, along with smaller boats and skiffs, equipped with field gear for biological, geological and chemical sampling. A new wet lab facility allows for work on living marine organisms, while modern laboratories house equipment including an ultralow-temperature freezer, spectrophotometers, and light and temperature-controlled incubators.

In this intense learning environment, most students work 20 hours each week in assistantships, while still making time to focus on their own research. The program and facility have grown since the 1990s, when DISL was just a regional program and the faculty numbered only four or five professors.

The program, faculty and resources now draw students from across the country. Crystal Hightower came to DISL in 2003 as an undergraduate summer worker. "There is a great sense of community, an international community with students and faculty from all over the world — Argentina, Spain, France, China, Korea," she said. Hightower worked as a lab technician for Dr. Powers for four years, then started graduate school at USA in 2011, focused on Red Drum fisheries management. She currently manages the Fisheries Ecology Lab at DISL.

Justin Liefer is a staff researcher with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) at the Dauphin Island Gulf Coast Seafood Laboratory. As an undergraduate at Grand Valley State University (Michigan), he received a National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates fellowship to study for the summer at Dauphin Island Sea Lab.

"When I spoke to the faculty here, they were much more charismatic than larger institutions," Liefer explained. "These are world-renowned scientists, not just Gulf scientists. It's a wonderful group of faculty to work for and with and learn from."

After publishing the research from his DISL undergraduate award experience, he returned as a graduate assistant, then a doctoral student studying

microscopic organisms and their economic impact, training volunteers to work with him taking and monitoring water samples.

With a limited number of academic positions available, and as competition for those slots is high, Liefer and Hightower encourage networking in the field to identify non-academic positions, such as those in the governmental and private sectors.

USA was Laura Stone's first choice for graduate school after Dickinson College (Pennsylvania), and she studies Greater Amberjack and mortality rates after catch and release. After graduation, she looks forward to a governmental or lab position.

Reid Nelson earned his master's degree at Auburn University but was drawn to DISL's high tech equipment, as well as research resources. "There is the funding and the freedom to ask the questions I want to answer," he said. He hopes the quantitative skills he gains during his Ph.D. program will set him apart from the competition for an academic position.

The USA Marine Sciences program, in partnership with DISL, has established itself as a premier graduate and research program in the region with a nationally recognized faculty. The expansion of the academic programs furthers the impact of the program.

## Making A Big Splash photo captions:

**Page 8:** Marine Sciences graduate students sample fish and collect water samples in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska (right inset).

**Page 9 (top):** OK to dive! Marine Sciences graduate students take a plunge into Mobile Bay to retrieve oceanographic instruments deployed on the bottom of the bay.

**Page 9 (bottom):** A Marine Sciences researcher samples sharks in Alabama waters as part of a monthly survey developed to monitor the population status of coastal sharks.

**Page 10 (top):** On a typically rainy day, a Marine Sciences graduate student samples Rockfish and Halibut in Coastal Alaska.

**Page 10 (bottom):** In Prince William Sound in Alaska, Marine Sciences graduate students bait hooks to survey large predatory fish. This study examines the lingering effects of the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

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Joslynn Owens, 23, has always been a strong student in mathematics. In high school, she considered a variety of math-related fields as potential career paths, but ultimately, thanks to the encouragement of a teacher, she decided to give engineering a try.

Four years later, the senior electrical engineering major is no longer the tentative freshman “giving engineering a try.” She is a self-described leader among her classmates and a recipient of an Alabama Power Scholarship, offered annually to the most elite students in the USA College of Engineering.

“As I researched engineering I realized I would have a better future in that field and stuck with it as a major,” Owens said.

And that – enabling talented students to have brighter futures regardless of their financial means—is what this scholarship is all about, according to Mike Saxon, Vice President of Alabama Power’s Mobile Region.

Thanks in part to success stories like Owens’, and also due to the matching funds available through the Mitchell-Moulton Scholarship Initiative, the Alabama Power Foundation recently decided to renew its commitment to scholarships at South with a \$300,000 gift to the University.

This most recent gift, coupled with dollar-for-dollar matching funds from the scholarship initiative and previous

commitments, brings the value of Alabama Power’s scholarship endowments to more than \$1.2 million.

Saxon said this gift is part of Alabama Power’s mission to invest in the communities it serves.

“The Alabama Power Foundation is pleased to support engineering scholarships at the University of South Alabama,” Saxon said. “Helping to educate talented students ensures a strong workforce for the future.”

The new endowment this gift creates will expand and extend the impact of the Alabama Power Scholarships. Previously, these scholarships were awarded to upper-class engineering students who had demonstrated strong potential. This new program will enable the USA College of Engineering to attract elite freshmen and transfer students.

Dr. John Steadman, dean of the USA College of Engineering, said the scholarships created by this gift will enable the University to compete with other top engineering schools for elite talent.

“With our high-quality educational programs and our proximity to a strong

base of industrial employment, the University of South Alabama is already an attractive destination for engineering students,” Steadman said. “These scholarships will significantly enhance our ability to recruit the most promising future engineers, who will be critical to the economic development in our region and the nation.”

USA Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations Dr. Joseph F. Busta Jr. said Alabama Power’s long-term relationship with the University has enabled the two organizations to create a partnership that will have a meaningful and lasting impact on students at South Alabama.

“We deeply appreciate the continued generosity of the Alabama Power Foundation,” Busta said. “We appreciate the many ways that Alabama Power and its employees give back to the University and the local community.”

Owens has already felt that impact. For her, the scholarship is about more than just the financial support it provides; it’s about the opportunities it has created for her to serve and lead outside the classroom.

For example, she has worked as programs chair at Circle K, which is an extension of the Kiwanis Club. She also got involved in the National Society of Black Engineers, where she served as president in 2013-2014, in addition to other offices.

Owens encourages other high school students to consider engineering. She is a volunteer with the iCAN program, whose aim is to expose young girls to engineering.

“Those different organizations outside the college and on campus, and holding officer positions developed me into a leader,” said Owens.



# OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



The University of South Alabama is home to some amazing researchers and scholars and couldn't be located in a more beautiful and forward-moving region as Mobile and the Gulf Coast. Faculty research, the University and the region are thriving and collectively building a new culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. The Office

of Research and Economic Development (ORED) was created at USA to promote, encourage and facilitate faculty in their research who in turn help enhance the quality of life along our Gulf Coast community and globally. I am fortunate to serve as vice president for ORED including the Office of Research Development and Learning, the Sponsored Projects Administration, the Research Compliance and Assurance Office, the Center for Commercialization and Industry Collaboration, the Intellectual Property Management Office, the Technology and Research Park and the Coastal Innovation Hub. Each of these offices serves a vital role in support of research, scholarship and economic development.

The faculty and USA spin-off company profiled below is a wonderful example of the synergy between research and economic development and the support provided by the University. Researchers at the USA College of Medicine have been looking at mechanisms and diseases associated with lung biology for almost 20 years. Out of this research came discoveries about the role and power of Mitochondrial DNA (mDNA) in trauma and the body's ability to recover from physical stress. This led to creation of proteins to repair mDNA damage. Recognizing the value of this research to human life, USA offices assisted Drs. Glenn Wilson and Mark Gillespie in obtaining a patent for their invention and starting a new company, Exscien, to further develop the technology. Exscien Corporation President Christine Cumbie, along with Drs. Wilson and Gillespie, have applied for and received numerous awards including federal Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) awards. In 2013, Exscien won \$57,000 from Alabama Launchpad to further its work towards commercializing the new technology. In the brief below, the researchers share some of the exciting possibilities for impacting organ transplantation, stroke and battlefield trauma.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne Cronister".

Vice President for Research and Economic Development

## USA Scientists Develop Life-Saving Drug

Imagine a drug that can treat heart attacks, lung disease and combat casualties, as well as have cosmetic applications. It's here and was developed at the University of South Alabama by Drs. Glenn Wilson and Mark Gillespie. Exscien is the next generation of bio-molecular medicine, based on the body's own cellular mechanics to cure disease.

When tissue and organ damage generates at the cellular level, it damages the Mitochondrial DNA. Exscien, a three-part fusion protein, was developed to repair such injuries. The protein enters the cell, accesses the mitochondria and provides a repair enzyme. In laboratory tests, Exscien reduced cellular damage in heart attacks and strokes by as much as 56 percent.

It also gives medical professionals the ability to preserve organs for use in transplant, which provides a commercial opportunity, specifically in lung transplants. This surgical procedure is expensive and 30 percent fail, explained Dr. Gillespie. "Our drug fixes that," he said. Exscien also has potential applications with battlefield injuries and trauma surgeries.

Drs. Gillespie and Wilson have received numerous business development grants, biological grants, and stroke, heart attack and acute lung injury grants to further their work, including prize money from the 2013 Alabama Launchpad Startup Competition.



Dr. Mark Gillespie, left, and Dr. Glenn Wilson, right.



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## 2014 Athletic Hall of Fame members honored

Henry “Dock” Richardson (baseball, 1965-68), Ronnie Powell (baseball assistant coach, 1987-2006), Shaun Rothuysen (men’s soccer, 1993-95) and Virgil Stanescu (men’s basketball, 1999-2001) comprised the USA Athletic Hall of Fame’s Class of 2014. The four were inducted in a ceremony held at the University Center Ballroom on Nov. 15, 2014, then recognized on the field at halftime of the Jaguar football team’s win over Texas State at Ladd-Peebles Stadium. Sixty-eight former student-athletes, coaches and administrators have been inducted into the USA Athletic Hall of Fame since its inception in 1989.

*The 2014 Athletic Hall of Fame members were Shaun Rothuysen, Virgil Stanescu, Ronnie Powell and Henry “Dock” Richardson.*



## Jags Baseball returns with a strong lineup

The 2015 University of South Alabama baseball team is in search of its second Sun Belt Conference title under fourth-year Head Coach Mark Calvi. USA returns eight pitchers and all nine starters from last year’s squad, including 2014 second-team all-SBC outfielder Cole Gleason, but must replace left-hander Locke St. John, who was selected by the Detroit Tigers in the 32<sup>nd</sup> round of the 2014 Major League Baseball June Amateur Draft.

The Jags face one of their most challenging schedules in some time with games scheduled against 2013 Super Regional participants Maryland and Louisiana-Lafayette, along with Regional qualifiers Mississippi State, Alabama, Jacksonville State, Jackson State, Southeastern Louisiana, Georgia Southern and Arkansas. USA will play 16 of its first 17 games of the season at Stanky Field.

The Sun Belt Conference Tournament will be held May 20-24 in Troy, Ala.



## Nationally ranked Jags Softball gears up for competitive season

University of South Alabama Head Softball Coach Becky Clark announced the 2015 Jaguar spring schedule, which included a season-opener versus 2014 Women’s College World Series runner-up Alabama, a pair of home tournaments and seven total matchups with programs that participated in the NCAA Tournament a year ago.

“This year is another competitive schedule with several teams who participated in the NCAA postseason, including the Women’s College World Series,” Clark stated. “I think our fans are going to like the fact that we have added another home tournament this year and will be hosting back-to-back weekends, which means more home games. With the upgrades to our facility, I wanted to make sure that our fans have as many opportunities as possible to enjoy great softball in such a first-class venue.”



# We Are #JagNation!



More than 4,200 alumni and Jag fans joined us at Jaguar Junction and in tailgating tents across the country to cheer for our Jags. In only its second year of eligibility, our Jaguar football team made history by earning an invitation to the inaugural Raycom Media Camellia Bowl. Congratulations to Coach Joey Jones and to our student-athletes for an incredible season – we couldn't be more proud! And a special thanks to all of you who cheered for our Jags both at home and on the road. We couldn't have done it without you!



# Homecoming

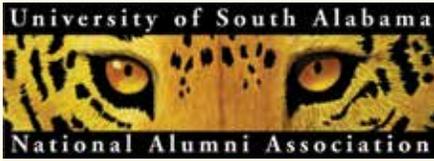
Homecoming 2014 brought thousands of USA alumni, family and friends to campus for a weekend packed full of events including lunch with Head Football Coach Joey Jones and our annual alumni lawn party. The Homecoming parade featured alumnus Grant Enfinger '07, ARCA racecar driver, as its Grand Marshal.

The highlight of the weekend was the Jags 30-27 win over conference rival Georgia State!



Corporate Partners





**2014-2015 University of South Alabama  
National Alumni Association Board of Directors**

The National Alumni Association is indeed fortunate to have a talented, dynamic Board of Directors who work tirelessly to further the mission of the Association. It is because of their leadership and dedication we are able to offer outstanding programs and benefits to you, our alumni.



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President



Holle Williams Briskman '69  
Vice President



Jeb Shell '00  
Secretary/Treasurer



Ann Forbes Simon '87  
Immediate Past President



Jim Connors '83, PhD '07



Lulu Crawford '73



Sharon Davis '02, MBA '07



Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees '97



Patrick Dungan '06



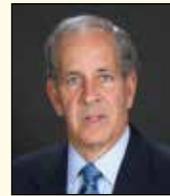
Larry Foster '72



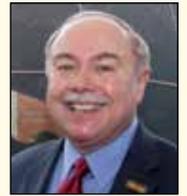
Monica Garsed '91



Rusty Glover '89, MA '97, MA '99



Mark Hoffman '75



Ron Jenkins '74



Hugh Keating '74



Ray Kennedy '78



Tony Kennon '87



Dan Lafayette MBA '07



Jody Montelaro '00



Jim Moore '90



Christi King Mossburg '85



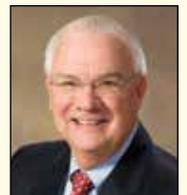
Bobby Percy, MD '96



Jimmy Shumock '81



Margie Tuckson '73



Hank Wells '67



Doug Whitmore '05



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Executive Director  
National Alumni  
Association



Marie Fox  
Assistant Director  
National Alumni  
Association



Ailey Arrow Shirazi  
Assistant Director  
National Alumni  
Association



# Legislative Update

with Happy Fulford '73, MEd '91, USA's Executive Director of Governmental Relations



## ALABAMA LEGISLATURE PREPARES FOR 2015 SESSION

The organizational session of the Alabama legislature ended on January 14, 2015. Representative Mike Hubbard of Auburn was re-elected Speaker of the House and USA graduate Victor Gaston of Mobile was re-elected Speaker Pro Tempore. Senator Del Marsh of Anniston was re-elected President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

The regular session of the legislature convenes on March 3, 2015. If you live in Alabama, you may hear from me during the session asking that you help communicate USA's position on an issue to your representative and senator. I hope you will respond. Legislators hear from me all the time. Hearing from a constituent is very effective in emphasizing our message.

Thanks and Go Jags!

*Happy*



President Waldrop took this picture of Governor Bentley and me with our South Alabama ties at the recent Camellia Bowl Luncheon. Governor Bentley was one of the speakers and, of course, supported the Jaguars in the game against Bowling Green.



Early in his first month as USA's President, Dr. Tony Waldrop had the occasion to visit with Governor Bentley informally over lunch at the Big Time Diner in Mobile. Soon after that, a more formal meeting took place in the governor's office to discuss the University's goals, funding and higher education issues. At the beginning of that meeting, Dr. Waldrop presented the governor with an autographed Jaguar football. Governor Bentley has been a supporter of USA football from the very beginning and attended the first game we played at Ladd-Peebles Stadium.



Four Southwest Alabama legislators recently joined USA Marine Sciences Department Chair Dr. Sean Powers on a Red Snapper research trip. From left to right Senator Bill Hightower, Representative David Sessions, Dr. Sean Powers, Representative James Buskey and Representative Jack Williams. The status of the Red Snapper population is a subject of intense debate and has tremendous economic implications for the region. The research trip gathered critical information on the age composition of Red Snapper, which is a key metric in determining the status of the population.

## USA College of Medicine graduate elected to Alabama State Senate

Dr. Larry Stutts, a 1988 USA College of Medicine graduate, was recently elected to the Alabama State Senate representing Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Lawrence and Marion counties. He joins fellow USA graduates Rusty Glover '89, '99, MEd. '97 of Semmes, Phil Williams '88 of Rainbow City and Bill Hightower '84 of Mobile in the senate. All three were recently re-elected—Senator Glover for his third term and Senators Williams and Hightower for their second terms.

While at USA, Senator Stutts was elected class representative all four years of medical school and served as president of the Medical Student Body his senior year. During their time in Mobile, Senator Stutts, his wife, Jackie, and their two daughters were founding members of Christ Presbyterian Church. Jackie and Larry also now have two other adult children, one grandchild and another grandchild due in May. Upon graduation, he matched with his first residency choice of obstetrics and gynecology at Carraway Medical Center in Birmingham, Alabama. In 1992, Senator Stutts opened Colbert OB/GYN. Today, his practice has served 18,000 patients. He has delivered more than 10,000 babies and performed over 7,000 gynecologic surgeries.



Jag alumni populate the Alabama Senate. From left to right are Senator Rusty Glover, Senator Larry Stutts, Senator Phil Williams and Senator Bill Hightower, joined on the far right by Senator Tim Melson, who attended USA for his anesthesia residency from 1989-1992.

# Your Alumni Staff is on the Move...



Greetings Jaguar Alumni!

Wow! What an incredible fall this has been! Over the past five months, our new University president, Dr. Tony Waldrop, was inaugurated, we completely sold out Ladd-Peebles Stadium for the first time ever for our football game against Mississippi State and we participated in our very first post-season bowl game. And you were there – cheering our Jags all the way! I cannot begin to describe the pride I feel as an alumna of this university.

At home, Jaguar Junction was the place to be for alumni and Jag fans alike. On the road, hundreds of you traveled in support of our Jags to Kent, Moscow, Boone, Lafayette, Columbia and, of course, Montgomery for the inaugural Raycom Media Camellia Bowl! Montgomery was a sea of red as thousands of Jaguar faithful turned out in support of our amazing team, Coach Jones and our university. *Mission: Montgomery* was an overwhelming success!

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, we will proudly host our second annual JaguarsCare National Day of Service. We invite you to join hundreds of Jag alumni and friends across the country and internationally in our pursuit to make a difference in the world on behalf of the University of South Alabama. Please visit our web site at [www.southalabama.edu/alumni](http://www.southalabama.edu/alumni) for more information on how you can participate in your community, both individually and through your local alumni chapter.

And finally, I am proud to introduce your National Alumni Association Board of Directors. Led by President Mike Diehl '73, these dynamic individuals are working for you by providing time, talent and expertise to further the mission of the Association. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of them for their dedication and commitment!

Go Jags!

Karen Webster Edwards '80  
Executive Director  
USA National Alumni Association



The Alumni Relations staff represents at the Raycom Media Camellia Bowl.

## Welcome Ailey Arrow Shirazi!

Assistant Director, Chapters, Societies and Special Events

A lifelong Jaguar fan, Ailey Shirazi grew up on South Alabama's campus. Her father, Ronnie Arrow, served two tours as the South Alabama men's basketball coach. Her first job out of college was at the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce where she coordinated and executed meetings and events for the Community and Governmental Affairs Department. Most recently she served as Communications Specialist for Outokumpu Stainless USA (formerly ThyssenKrupp).

Ailey will oversee chapter and society development for the USA National Alumni Association, expanding our presence throughout the country. In addition, she will assist in coordinating football tailgating events, game watch parties and other alumni-focused events. Ailey is already working on JaguarsCare, our national day of service, which is scheduled for April 18. For more information on how you can become involved with your alumni association, contact Ailey in the Office of Alumni Relations at 251.460.7084 or email [shirazi@southalabama.edu](mailto:shirazi@southalabama.edu).



# Make a Difference as Jaguar Alumni

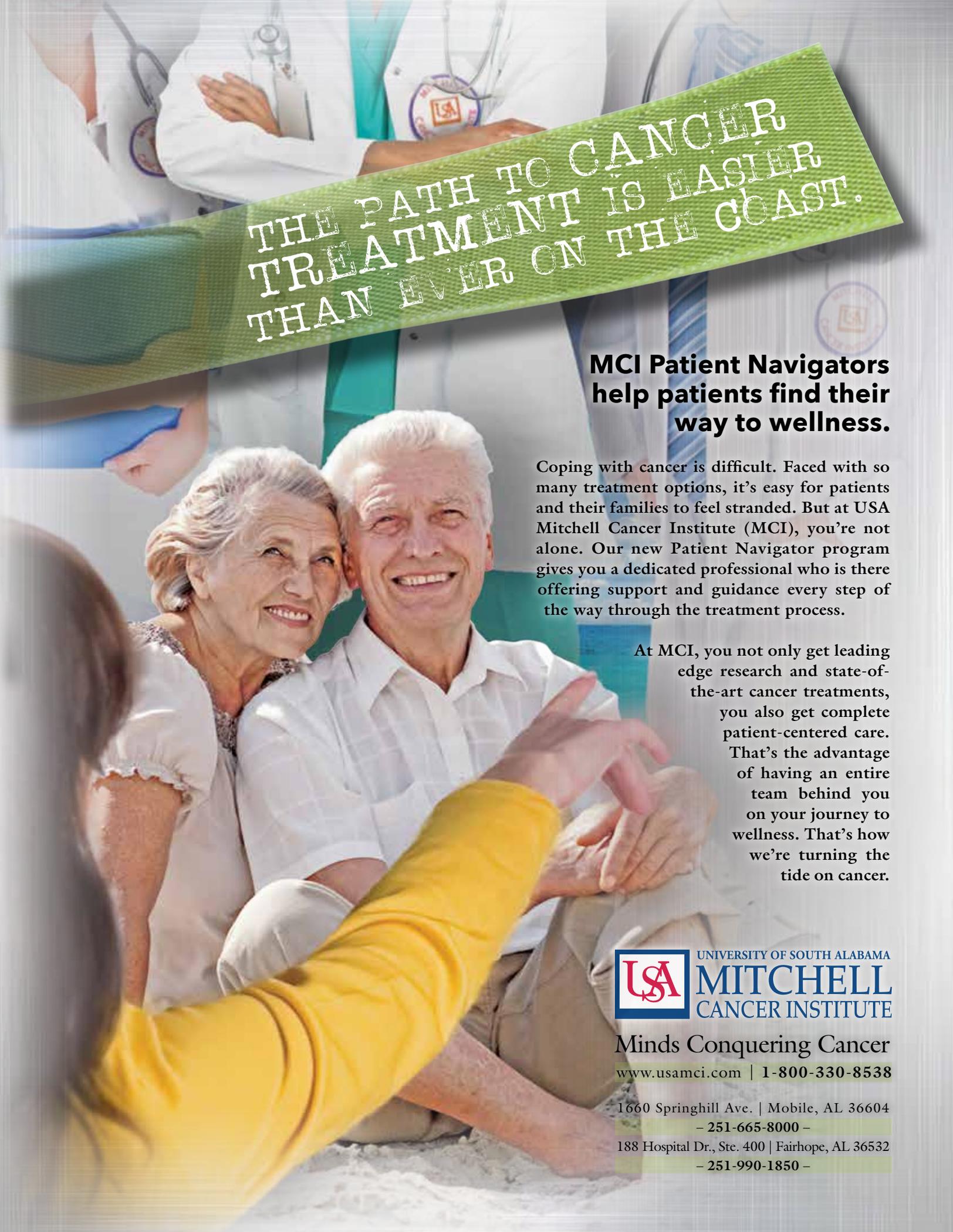


One of the hallmarks of our University is the tremendous ongoing contributions that our alumni make to our communities. While the northern Gulf Coast is home to most USA grads, we have alumni in most states and many countries abroad. The gifts and benefits we bring to our home communities are at the heart of what we do as proud Jaguar alumni.

There is no better way to show your Jaguar pride than helping the National Alumni Association with another successful JaguarsCare National Day of Service. Last year we had hundreds of alumni, friends and family participate in our very first event. The last JaguarsCare resulted in over 700 volunteer hours donated to 31 projects throughout Jag Nation. I ask you to again give your enthusiastic support to our upcoming event on April 18, 2015.

Mike Diehl '73  
President, USA National Alumni Association





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# 2014-2015 Southerners: Strength in Numbers



For the first time in this elite group's history, the 2014-2015 class of USA Southerners has increased in size. Since 1978, the Southerners have served as the University's ambassadors as a group of 16. This year, their number increased to 20. The 2014-2015 Southerners class is made up of young men and women handpicked based on outstanding academic and extracurricular achievements. The Southerners, sponsored by the USA National Alumni Association, work closely with alumni, University administration and community groups to fulfill vital roles in every aspect of University relations.

Although they're typically seen in suits and ties, the Southerners don't mind getting a little messy for a good cause. Each April they host Oozeball - a volleyball tournament played in 18 inches of mud - with the proceeds to charity and scholarships. The majority of proceeds from Oozeball 2015 will go towards the Carol and Steve Kittrell Scholarship for Southerners, with the remainder supporting USA Children's & Women's Hospital.

**SAVE THE DATE!!**  
**04/18/2015 Oozeball 2015**

*#OozeNation*



*Oozeball 2014 finalists*

The 2014-2015 USA Southerners are, from top left, Kyrion Timmons, Marcus Williams, Eric Saucier, Josef Hobdy (President), Matthew Robson, Rachel Granger (Corresponding Secretary), Kayley Edwards, Ally Heng, Taylor Keith, Alicia Duke, Taylor Smith (Vice President), Thomas Jackson, Sarah Scelfo, Bryan Ricksecker, Kaitlyn Wiggins (PR Secretary), Javon Averett, Victoria Bishop, Emily Jerkins, Ravi Rajendra and Sam Cockrell (not pictured).

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2013  
Presidents Award



# On the road to becoming a better

By Ashley Trice

# Jaguar

I graduated from the University of South Alabama in 2000. While I have always thought I received a great education from some of the best instructors and professors around, I always felt like something was missing from my college experience.

It was mostly my fault. I never lived on campus. I wasn't a part of the Greek system. I didn't participate in many campus organizations or activities.

And these were all choices I made.

I wasn't an antisocial person; I just did my socializing elsewhere. I didn't even really think being so disconnected from campus was that big of a deal at the time. It kind of seemed like the thing to do.

I remember it being called a "commuter school." And there was definitely that kind of vibe. Unlike many universities, where you couldn't escape the college atmosphere unless you left the town, at South, you could just drive to your class, be there for an hour, then drive back off campus and be in a different part of Mobile (and in an entirely different world) in 10 minutes.

And in some ways that was nice.

I worked at restaurants most of the time I went to school and many of my friends who are still my friends to this day were made while slinging hot crab dip and lobster bisque downtown, not in the library or a dorm on campus.

Things turned out just fine and who knows where I would be if I had made a different choice. But I do get a little jealous or even regretful when I hear my friends who went to schools in more traditional college towns talk about participating in their "storied traditions" — being on the Grove at Ole Miss, screaming their heads off in Death Valley, throwing toilet paper over the oaks at Toomer's or going to the homecoming bonfire at Alabama.

Again, I am still grateful for the education I received at USA and my college years, but

I have never felt a very strong connection to the school since graduation. And I have admittedly been an absolutely terrible alumna. I don't own a single item with a Jaguar on it and have not been to a single alumni event.

My husband would proudly tell our son about his college and ask him if he wanted to go there one day. I had never asked my son that question.

When they first started talking about starting a football team, I didn't really have a strong opinion on it. I love football, but is it really that big of a deal one way or the other?

I didn't learn just how big of a deal it was until I finally managed to take my family to a game in 2013. (I'm not sure why I didn't realize this. All of

those "storied traditions" I mentioned earlier all revolve around football.)

Even though our first game wasn't a big one like the one last year against Mississippi State, the atmosphere was fun and exciting. When they played the Jaguar howl (Is that what it is called?) over the loud speaker on first downs or big plays, my son just thought that was the coolest thing in the world.

"What was that?" he asked.

"You know how they say 'Roll Tide' at daddy's school, well this is what they say at mommy's school," I told him.

Truthfully, I think that was the first time I had ever taken any "ownership" in South since I graduated. But I was truly proud.

And for the record, he thought that was way cooler than "Roll Tide."

RRRRRRROOOOOWWWWWW!

I didn't make it to the big Mississippi State game this past season, but the pride I felt for South grew even more that day. The field and the team looked fabulous on television. We did the "Jaguar howl" (or holler or whatever it is) in our living room every time we had a good play.

And on social media, I had never seen so many people posting about how proud they were of the University of South Alabama, "their" school.

I must have thought to myself a dozen or so times as I looked through my Facebook feed, "Oh I didn't know he (or she) went to South."

Why? Because none of us ever talk about it.

It's like being in Fight Club. The first rule of graduating from South is never telling anyone you graduated from South.



Ashley Trice with son Anders (5) and daughter Ellen (2) on a visit to USA's campus.

It's not that we are ashamed, but what are we going to talk about? Our favorite professors from 15 years ago? How we wished we had had a bell tower when we were there. That would be lame.

But the Friday afternoon before the game against MSU, that changed.

While my co-workers and I were sitting around our Midtown Mobile office talking about what we were going to do that weekend, I learned or was reminded over half of our full-time employees are South grads and were planning on heading over to Ladd-Peebles. How did I not know or remember that? Oh yeah, because none of us ever talk about it!

And this realization came all because we were talking about a football game. Some may think that is just sad — "What, you can only feel proud of your school if there are a bunch of guys out on the field throwing a ball?"

It's not that at all though. It just creates a new camaraderie and something we can all pull for together and talk about around the ol' water cooler. "Man, that quarterback has a great arm!"

For us older "commuter" Jags, it gives us a way to experience some of the things we missed out on.

And for the current students, I can only imagine what new "storied traditions" will emerge as they tailgate or experience big wins or haunting losses together.

Those are memories they will have for a lifetime. And they won't even involve slinging hot crab dip. Well, hopefully.

*Ashley Toland Trice graduated with a BA in Communications in 2000. She is the co-founder and co-publisher of Lagniappe Weekly, a newspaper in Mobile, where this article first appeared in September 2014.*



Jag fans Monica Curtis and Frances Henson at the Raycom Media Camellia Bowl.

# Leave Your Legacy

Each year, the National Alumni Association hosts the Wall of Honor Unveiling Ceremony. This premier event, exclusively for our lifetime members, honors those members whose names are being added to the wall. The 2014 Wall of Honor Unveiling Ceremony was held in November and was followed by a reception hosted by USA President Tony Waldrop.

Want your name forever inscribed on the Wall of Honor? Join as a Lifetime Member today, and when your membership is paid in full, you'll join the over 3,200 lifetime members leaving their legacy in bronze!



Stay connected to your Alma Mater and leave your mark on its future by joining the USA National Alumni Association!

Start taking advantage of our exclusive membership benefits:

- Car rental, hotel, restaurant and retail discounts
- Eligibility to join USA's Campus Recreation Center (some restrictions apply)
- Free entry to Jaguar Junction - the pre-game tailgating tent at every home football game
- Career assistance with USA Career Services
- Endless networking opportunities with over 69,000 fellow Jaguar alumni ...and so much more!



Actress, author and alumna Laura Cayouette MA '88 stands under her name on the Wall of Honor at Moulton Tower.

251.460.7084

alumni@southalabama.edu  
www.southalabama.edu/alumni



Trent Wilkerson '13 and his family stand next to his name during 2014 Wall of Honor Unveiling Ceremony at Moulton Tower and Alumni Plaza.

# CHAPTER NOTES



Former Jags basketball players gather monthly in Indianapolis.



SouthPaw greeted USA alumni as the South Alabama Jaguars took on the Idaho Vandals.



Jag fans gather at Moe's Original BBQ for the Port City Kent State Game Watch Party.



Jag fans gather at Moe's Original BBQ for the Port City Kent State Game Watch Party.



## The South Alabama Jaguars Visa® Rewards Credit Card

The South Alabama National Alumni Association is pleased to announce an affinity credit card relationship with Commerce Bank to offer the South Alabama Jaguars Visa® Rewards Credit Card. The card offers South Alabama alumni a rewards program that allows card holders to earn unlimited reward points that are redeemable for thousands of items including gift cards, travel, merchandise and more.

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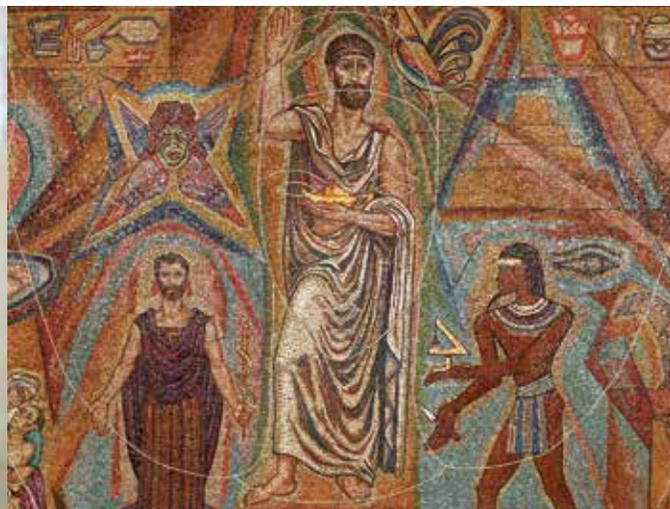
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# Celebrating Alumni Service and Achievement

The 2015 Distinguished Alumni and Service Award recipients were honored at a black-tie gala event at the Mitchell Center on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>.

## 2015 Distinguished Service Award

**W. Andrew "Andy" Denny '72, MEd '74**

Andy Denny was the first president of the National Alumni Association to live outside Alabama. He served as a member of the Campaign USA Leadership Team and the 50th Anniversary Annual Fund Leadership Council. Additionally, he generously provided financial support for the Jaguar Athletic Fund, football, baseball and golf; established the Denny-Gottfried Endowed Athletic Scholarship and the Andy and Carol Denny National Alumni Excellence in Teaching Award.

## 2015 V. Gordon Moulton Distinguished Service Award

**V. Gordon Moulton, President Emeritus**

**University of South Alabama (posthumously)**

Gordon Moulton devoted more than 46 years of his life in service to the University of South Alabama, the greater Mobile community and the state of Alabama. In addition to his many accomplishments as president, Gordon Moulton supported USA with more than \$7 million in gifts toward numerous institutional priorities.

## 2015 Distinguished Alumni Awards

**Greg Gabel '89, MBA '98**

Greg Gabel has been with Chevron USA for 24 years and is currently the Refinery General Manager at the Salt Lake City plant. Chevron has five refineries in the United States and he is one of only five general managers.



Guests enjoy last year's celebration in the Mitchell Center.

## Daniel Grafton '75

Dan Grafton currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustmark Corporation and Trustmark National Bank. He is the retired president and CEO of L-3 Communications Vertex Aerospace. He was inducted into the Mississippi Business Hall of Fame in 2004 and 2005.

## Warren Nicholson '82, MSEE '89

Warren Nicholson is the CEO and founder of Nfina Technologies, Inc. He is a member of the USA College of Engineering Advisory Board and has established endowed undergraduate and graduate scholarships for electrical engineering students.

# ALUMNI HONOR *Excellence*

## 2014 National Alumni Association Excellence Awards

The following outstanding faculty members, along with a very accomplished young alumna, were the recipients of this year's National Alumni Association Excellence Awards. The recipients were recognized and honored at the Association's annual meeting.

### The Andy and Carol Denny National Alumni Excellence in Teaching Award

acknowledges the central role of teaching at USA by recognizing faculty for their outstanding teaching contributions. This year's recipient is **Dawn McKinney**, senior instructor, School of Computing.

### The Olivia Rambo McGlothren National Alumni Association Outstanding Scholar Award

honors faculty for high achievements in the realm of scholarship as appropriate to his/her discipline. This year's recipient is **Dr. Ronald Kiene**, professor, Department of Marine Sciences.

### The Beth and Don Davis National Alumni Association Excellence in Advising Award

acknowledges the importance of advising at USA by annually recognizing faculty and staff for their outstanding advising contributions. This year's recipient is **Dr. Keith Blackwell**, associate professor, Department of Earth Sciences.

### The Russ and Robin Lea National Alumni Association Faculty Innovation Award

recognizes USA faculty for outstanding achievement in research. This year's recipients are **Dr. Silas Leavesley**, assistant professor, Department of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering, and **Dr. Tom Rich**, associate professor, Department of Pharmacology.

### The Lisa Bethea Kavanagh Outstanding Young Alumni Award

recognizes a USA graduate who is 40 years of age or younger for early career accomplishments. This year's recipient is **Penny Grubb Hatcher '02, MA '06**, director of public relations & communications, Southern Earth Sciences.

# Jaguar Journeys 2015 Tours

The University of South Alabama National Alumni Association is proud to offer its newest alumni benefit – Jaguar Journeys alumni travel! Exclusive to our alumni and friends, these unique travel programs offer exciting opportunities to explore the globe in ways that connect you as a traveler to the people, places and cultures of your destination. From exotic locales in distant lands to in-depth journeys in more familiar destinations, you will find an expansive variety of programs and educational opportunities, along with first-class accommodations featuring exceptional service and cuisine, all at affordable prices. We invite you to explore your world as a Jaguar Journeys traveler.

## WATERWAYS OF HOLLAND & BELGIUM

### *Amsterdam to Brussels (7 nights)*

Date: May 1-9, 2015, aboard MS *Amadeus Silver*

Price: From \$2,495 per person, double occupancy

There is no better way to experience the beauty, history and culture of Holland and Belgium than by cruising on their legendary waterways. Travel into the heart of one of Europe's most colorful and fascinating regions with a unique educational program that creatively combines learning, recreation, relaxation and fellowship aboard the exclusively chartered, first-class MS *Amadeus*, a flagship of the innovative Luftner river boat cruise line. Detailed information will be available soon at [www.southalabama.edu/alumni](http://www.southalabama.edu/alumni).



## COASTAL ALASKA – OCEANIA CRUISES

### *Seattle to Seattle (7 nights)*

Date: July 7–14, 2015, aboard Oceania Cruises *Regatta*

Price: From \$2,299 per person, double occupancy (Airfare included from select cities)

Travel to a place of stunning landscapes and unspoiled wilderness, a place where nature reigns supreme—amazing Alaska. Let the rugged beauty of America's last frontier captivate you as you cruise along its shores aboard Oceania Cruises *Regatta*, a state-of-the-art haven of elegance. Depart from Seattle and sail through the Inside Passage along Canada's scenic coast to the small wilderness outpost of Ketchikan, once known as the "Salmon Capital of the World," and the ancestral home of the Tlingit people. Continue cruising through Tracy Arm, a breathtaking fjord whose pristine waters reflect its ice-blue tidewater glaciers and soaring granite cliffs. Stop in one of Alaska's oldest towns, Wrangell, where hints of past settlers—Tlingit, Russian and British—are reflected in its structures. Cruise south through the open blue waters of the Pacific to Canada and the spectacular port city of Prince Rupert, where ancient native culture and pioneer heritage spring to life, before returning to Seattle. Savor the majestic beauty of ancient glaciers, soaring mountains and pristine coasts on this remarkable Alaskan voyage.



## EUROPEAN HIDEAWAYS – OCEANIA CRUISES

### *Barcelona to Rome (7 nights)*

Date: October 22-30, 2015, aboard Oceania Cruises *Riviera*

Price: From \$2,299 per person, double occupancy (Airfare included from select cities)

From quaint villages fringed by sparkling blue seas to cosmopolitan cities graced with enchanting architecture, experience classic European destinations as you cruise aboard the graceful Oceania Cruises *Riviera* to Spain, France, Monaco and Italy. Depart Barcelona for the glorious island of Mallorca and the lovely city of Palma. Marvel at its massive Gothic cathedral and circular castle overlooking the harbor, relax amid the windmill-dotted countryside or stroll the cobbled streets of Old Palma. Next, take in the colorful French city of Marseille or explore the rich Provençal countryside dotted with quaint villages and medieval towns. Then stop in glamorous Monte Carlo, a small, affluent enclave famous for its casino and its stunning locale on the Riviera's winding Grand Corniche. Sail to Italy and visit the fishing village turned resort town, Portofino, a modern playground of villas and yachts, and see the charming cliffside villages of Italy's renowned Cinque Terre. Explore the magnificent Renaissance museums and architecture of legendary Florence, stand before Pisa's famous Leaning Tower or admire the picturesque rolling hills of Tuscany, before disembarking in Civitavecchia, the port of Rome.



For more information on Jaguar Journeys, please visit our web site at [www.southalabama.edu/alumni](http://www.southalabama.edu/alumni) or contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 251.460.7084.



# Class Notes

 - Lifetime Member

 - Annual Member

**1969**

**Robert Battles Sr.** took the oath of office as a school board commissioner for Mobile's District #4 in November 2014.

**1982**

**Mary S. Palmer's** (MA '84) Mardi Gras short story *Raisin' Cain* won the Mobile Bay SELTI (Southeastern Literary Tourism Initiative) Tourism Writing Contest.

**1985**

 **Susan Steber Kangal** has joined Merrill Lynch Harty Carpenter Group as a client associate.

**1990**

Two publications that **Michelle Lynch** oversees received 2014 Bronze Anvil awards from the Public Relations Association of America.

**1992**

**Gary Burrus Jr.** received a PhD in human capital development from the University of Southern Mississippi in May 2014.

**Janice Schmitt Phillips**, general manager of Olgoonik Global Security in the UAE, was awarded the 2015 Woman in Business Award.

**1997**

**Christopher B. Conken**, vice president of Trustmark Bank, was awarded one of *Mobile Bay's* Forty Under 40 awards.

**1999**

**Ashleigh Barker Simon** (MS '03), clinical director at The Bridge Inc., was awarded one of *Mobile Bay's* Forty Under 40 awards.

**2000**

 **Jody Montelaro**, vice president of public affairs at Entergy, was named one of the *Baton Rouge Business Report's* Forty Under 40.

**2001**

 **Katie Hammett Hassell** of Hand Arendall LLC was awarded one of *Mobile Bay's* Forty Under 40 awards.

**Dr. Monica Motley**, president of the Alabama School of Mathematics and Science, was awarded one of *Mobile Bay's* Forty Under 40 awards.

**2003**

**Caleb Crosby** has been selected as the president and CEO of the Alabama Policy Institute.



Caleb Crosby

**2005**

 **Douglas Whitmore**, financial advisor with Wells Fargo Advisors, was awarded one of *Mobile Bay's* Forty Under 40 awards.

**2006**

**Vanessa McGee Reyner**, owner of VMR Agency, was awarded one of *Mobile Bay's* Forty Under 40 awards.

**2007**

**Terrance Deshaun Smith** (MS '10), program manager for the Mobile Area Education Foundation, was awarded one of *Mobile Bay's* Forty Under 40 awards.

**2009**

**Eric Haynes**, CPA, CGMA, was promoted to the position of senior accountant at Wilkins Miller Hieronymus LLC.

**2010**

 **Nicholas A. Lawkis** (MPA '11) was promoted to the position of assistant director, Government Relations at the University of South Alabama. Nick previously served as the associate director in the University's Alumni Relations office.

**2011**

**Amberly Harris** was appointed promotions manager for Cumulus Mobile stations WABD FM, WBLX FM, WDLT FM and Gospel 900 WGOK AM. Harris began her broadcasting career as a WBLX Street Team member in 2005. She is also a part-time radio personality, "Bambi, the Down South Diva," on The Big Station 93 BLX.



Amberly Harris

**2012**

**Amanda Jones**, CPA, was promoted to the position of senior accountant at Wilkins Miller Hieronymus LLC.

## In Memoriam

Edgar Giles, 1968

Olivia Annette Rehm, 1969, MA 1974  
 Harry Eugene Shirah, IV, 1969  
 Frankie Irene Wood, MA 1970  
 Larry L. Brewer, 1972  
 Lonnie Howard Clolinger, 1972  
 Thomas E. Fletcher, Jr., 1972  
 Jamesetta Rice Jones Mose, 1972  
 Albert Jackson Meacham, 1973  
 James Springer, Jr., 1973  
 Nancy Carolyn Rice, 1974  
 David Neander Crane, MA 1975, 1984  
 Alice Gragg Hinger, 1975  
 Denise Marion Dinicola, 1977  
 Terry Jordan Martin, 1977  
 John Butler Saint, MBA 1977  
 Frances Rogers Taylor, 1978  
 Rodney Hugh Majure, 1981, MED 1988  
 Burrul Yokel, 1982  
 David Neander Crane, 1984  
 Sandi Boykin, 1987  
 Joel Christopher Moore, 1989  
 Emily Baker Zimlich, 1989  
 Wendy Nealy Schlumpf, 1990  
 Daniel Herbert Vaughn, 1993  
 Mary Dummet, 1994  
 Lillie Latham, 1994  
 Sean Patrick O'Hare, 1998  
 Sharon D. Davis, 2001  
 Caryn Hyatt-Suthoff, 2012  
 Dr. Mary Jo Harris, Retired faculty  
 Jerry Oscar Morris, former employee  
 James Nickles, former professor



The University is saddened to report the death of Dr. Frederick N. Meyer, who passed away on Nov. 14, 2014. Dr. Meyer served as professor and chair of the University of South

Alabama Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. He also served as program director for the orthopaedic surgery residency training program.

Send your class notes to [alumni@southalabama.edu](mailto:alumni@southalabama.edu)

Steven Stokes MD '80 received the Medical Association of the State of Alabama's Ira L. Myers Service Award, presented to members who have served the profession faithfully and meritoriously. Dr. Stokes had a long and distinguished military career prior to attending medical school at USA. He practiced in Montgomery, then Knoxville, Tenn., before settling in Dothan with offices at the Southeast Cancer Center at Southeast Alabama Medical Center, North Florida Cancer Center, Jackson Hospital, Marianna, Fla., and Enterprise Cancer Center. In addition to medical mission trips, he is a dedicated volunteer in his community.



Dr. Steven Stokes, left, and his wife, Angelia '79, at the awards ceremony.

## Baby Jags

**Sadie Mae George** was born on July 15, 2014, to **Courtney Fortner George '05, MSSLP '07** and Brandon George.



Sadie Mae George



Jackson Richard Kelly

**Jackson Richard Kelly** was born on Oct. 25, 2014, to **Richard Kelly MEd '10** and Megan Moore Kelly.

 **William Preston Sirmon** was born on July 17, 2014, to **William D. Sirmon '08** and Lisa Hughes Sirmon. Grandparents are **Wayne E. Sirmon '76, MA '09** and **Maryella D. Sirmon, MD '78**.



William Preston Sirmon



Caleb Joseph Tholl

**Caleb Joseph Tholl** was born on Dec. 17, 2014, to **Alex J. Tholl '14** and **Lauren Aldred Tholl '07, MEd '14**.

# WHERE IN THE WORLD IS SOUTHPAW?



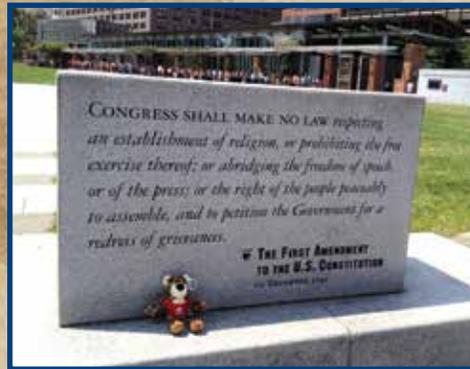
SouthPaw joined Susan N. McCollough in her studio one morning to help on her abstract paintings.



SouthPaw joined Penny Grubb Hatcher '02, MA '06, for a girls' weekend birthday celebration.



SouthPaw visited Government Plaza in Mobile with Ann Sirmon '87.



Daniel Day made sure SouthPaw saw the historic sites at Liberty Hall in Philadelphia.



Salvadoran puppets made current USA student Sophie Girardeau and SouthPaw feel tiny!



Casey Patterson '10, MBA '13 and Kristin Odom '09, MS '14 traveled to Madrid, Spain, and caught SouthPaw in front of *El Ayuntamiento de Madrid* (Madrid Town Hall).



Dan MBA '07 and Debra '90 Lafayette traveled to Idaho and took SouthPaw along for the ride.

Take a photo of your SouthPaw and e-mail the photo, your name and the location to [alumni@southalabama.edu](mailto:alumni@southalabama.edu). We will post it on the alumni website and you just might see it in a future issue of *Looking South*.

Purchase your Traveling SouthPaw from the USA Bookstore or order it online at [www.southalabama.edu/alumni](http://www.southalabama.edu/alumni).

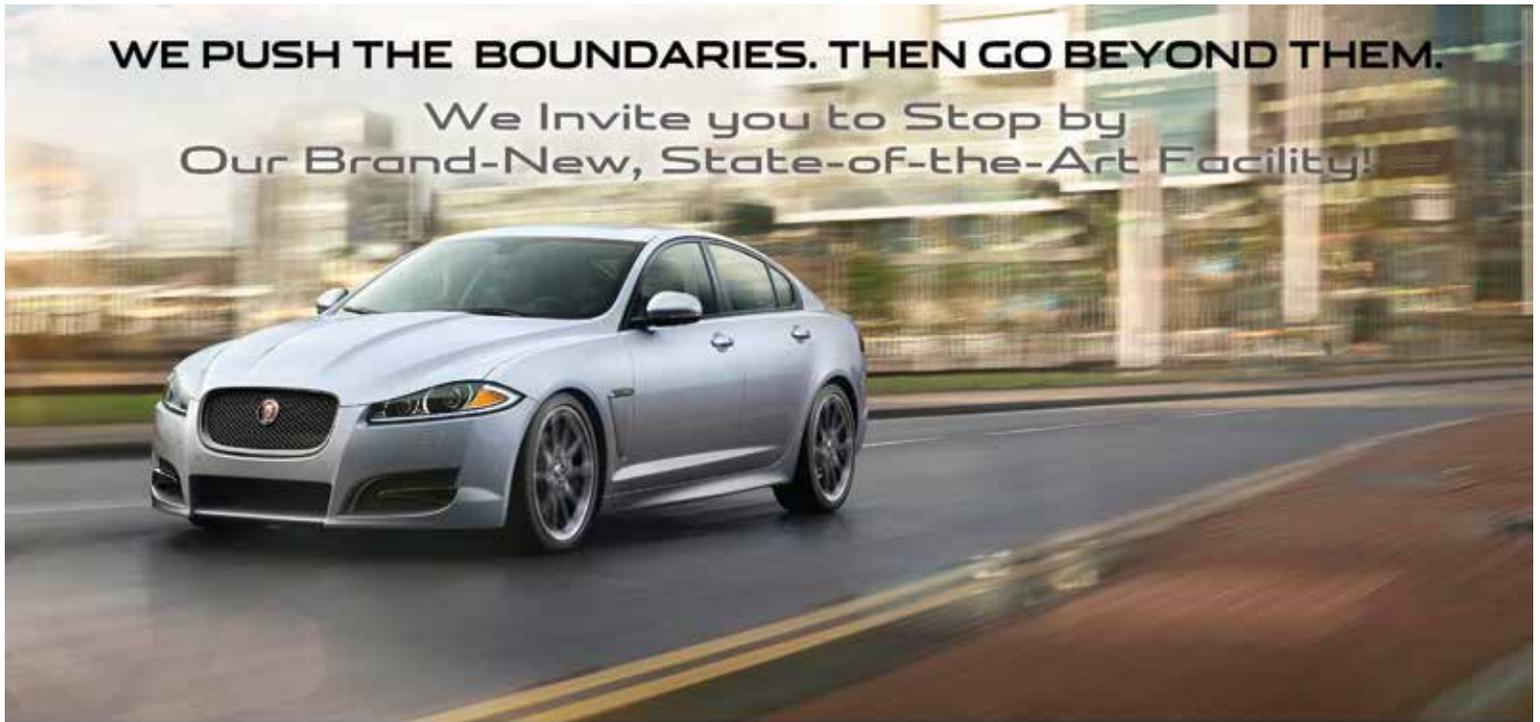




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# JAGUAR

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