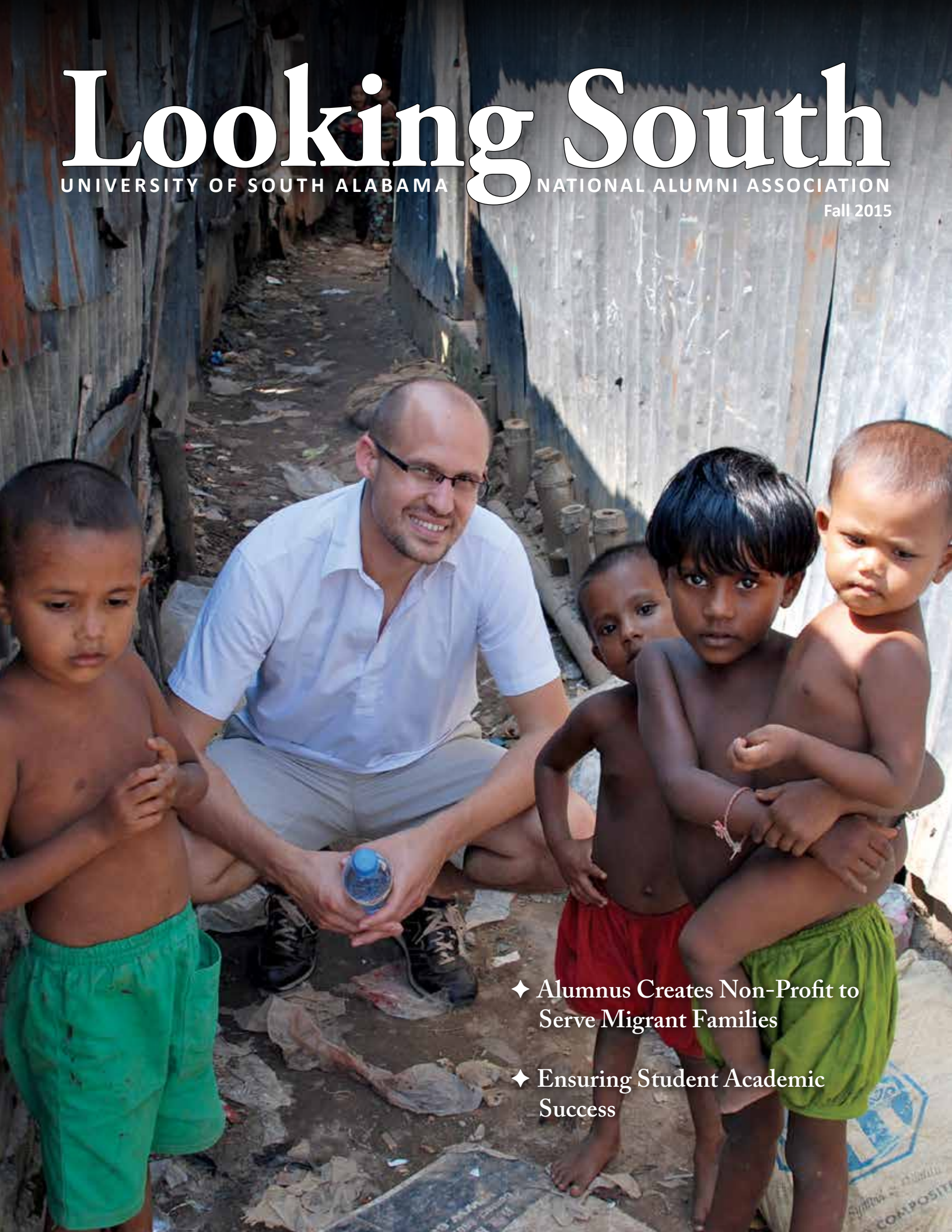


# Looking South

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Fall 2015



◆ Alumnus Creates Non-Profit to Serve Migrant Families

◆ Ensuring Student Academic Success



The Fall 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

**September 4** NAA Quarterly Board Meeting  
**September 5** Jaguar Junction - South Alabama vs. Gardner-Webb Ladd-Peebles, Mobile, AL  
**September 12** South Alabama vs. Nebraska - Lincoln, NE National Game Watch Party  
**September 19** South Alabama vs. San Diego State - San Diego, CA  
**September 22** Collette Travel Open House, Alumni Hall  
**September 25** South Alabama vs. NC State Pep Rally, Downtown Mobile  
**September 26** Jaguar Junction - South Alabama vs. NC State Ladd-Peebles, Mobile, AL  
**October 3** South Alabama vs. Troy - Troy, AL  
**October 13** Jaguar Junction - South Alabama vs. Arkansas State Ladd-Peebles, Mobile, AL  
**October 24** South Alabama vs. Texas State - San Marcos, TX  
**November 6** Joey Jones Lunch Homecoming Lawn Party and Parade, Alumni Hall  
**November 7** Jaguar Junction - South Alabama vs. Idaho Ladd-Peebles, Mobile, AL  
**November 12** Jaguar Junction - South Alabama vs. Louisiana-Lafayette Ladd-Peebles, Mobile, AL  
**November 13** NAA Quarterly Board Meeting  
**November 21** South Alabama vs. Georgia State - Atlanta, GA  
**November 28** South Alabama vs. Georgia Southern - Statesboro, GA  
**December 5** Jaguar Junction - South Alabama vs. Appalachian State Ladd-Peebles, Mobile, AL

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

*On the cover:*

Jonathan Hursh '03 created INCLUDED to serve the needs of migrants in the slums of some of Asia's largest cities.



# Jaguar Football Preview

In 2014, the South Alabama football program not only achieved a goal of competing in a postseason bowl game — facing Bowling Green in the inaugural Raycom Media Camellia Bowl in Montgomery the weekend before Christmas in front of a national audience on ESPN — it became the fastest NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision program to accomplish the feat, as the Jaguars were in just their second full season competing at that level.

The challenge for Head Coach Joey Jones and his staff this fall as they look toward the next goal, a Sun Belt Conference championship, is discovering which student-athletes will be on the field trying to accomplish that feat. That's because the Jags lost 28 letter winners from a year ago, including 17 of 24 starters; USA is one of just eight NCAA FBS programs among the 128 across the country that will return less than 60 percent of its 2014 letter winners.

The good news for Jones is that the Jaguars bring back 40 individuals who did letter last season, one in which they posted a 5-3 mark in league action while achieving bowl eligibility for the second year in a row.

After opening against Gardner-Webb on Sept. 5, the Jags will face a three-game stretch that includes back-to-back trips to Nebraska and San Diego State and a home contest against North Carolina State before beginning SBC action. USA will visit Troy for its conference opener, then return home to play host to Arkansas State on Tuesday, Oct. 13, in a matchup that will be televised nationally on ESPN2; the Jaguars will also take on Louisiana-Lafayette — with ESPNU carrying the contest across the country on Thursday, Nov. 12 — and Appalachian State in the regular-season finale Dec. 5 at Ladd-Peebles Stadium, as the league schedule features all five schools that tied with or finished ahead of USA in the final 2014 standings.

The challenges will be daunting for the USA football team this fall, both in replacing the sheer volume of production lost as well as the competition the Jaguars are slated to face on the field. But if there's one thing Jones has proven in the program's brief history, it's that obstacles can be overcome quickly.



# Student Success ‘Priority No. 1’



*Dr. Tony Waldrop, USA president, welcomes incoming students at a June new student orientation session. “We want to make sure we’re admitting students who can handle rigorous coursework, and we want those students to graduate on time,” he said recently.*

On a recent summer morning, inside the Student Center Ballroom and between the “Go Jags!” cheers, fight song primer, T-shirt giveaway and advice on navigating life in college, Dr. Nicole Carr took to the podium.

“If there’s nothing else you retain today,” said Carr, looking over the crowd of incoming freshmen at orientation, “one thing you need to know: You’re going to come back for year two and will graduate in four, and you will have the resources around you to make that happen.”

Those words frame what Carr, executive director of student academic success, is calling a culture change at the University of South Alabama.

Across the University, there is widespread buy-in to give students the tools to succeed so they will stay at the University, but not too long. Graduate in four. Or, as it is referred to in academic parlance, persistence and completion.

The focus on efforts to retain students following their freshman year and then see them through graduation comes amid national public discourse on ensuring college affordability and for USA has included some tough decisions, innovative thinking, changes in policy and practice and ... persistence.

It is a top priority of Dr. Tony Waldrop’s administration. Soon after President Waldrop took office in April 2014, he and other University leaders identified five areas of focus: student success and access, enhancement of research and graduate education, global engagement, excellence in health care, and University-community engagement.

Waldrop, in detailing the priorities in speeches to community groups and civic leaders, is quick to point out that they are listed in no particular order – except for student success.

“That is priority No. 1. It has to be,” said Waldrop. “Students who enroll here chose to invest in their education and be a part of the University of South Alabama. So we have an obligation to do everything we can to help them succeed. We also keep higher education affordable and accessible when we keep students on a four-year track.

“We want to make sure we’re admitting students who can handle rigorous coursework, and we want those students to graduate on time so they can begin earning the income afforded by their degrees. That’s why we’re intensifying our focus on retention and, at the same time, raising our standards for admission.”

There is no single means of moving the needle when it comes to retention, but if there is a symbol of the University’s commitment, it is in the 32,300-square-foot Academic Services

# as New Academic Year Begins

Center. Formerly the University Recreation Center, the building houses, among other services, a math lab, writing center and – where there once were racquetball courts – offices for the First Year Advising Center. The program, launched this year, is one of the University’s most ambitious yet, with USA hiring more than a half dozen academic advisors to specifically focus on first-year students.

“Arriving at a university can be a big change for many students,” Carr said. “If we can help with the initial transition and intervene early, we greatly improve a student’s chances for success freshman year and down the road.”

Other student success initiatives include the implementation of new software that better tracks student performance, learning communities that link students with similar academic interests, peer mentoring, joint programming between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs, a fall convocation for incoming freshmen, and academic roadmaps that give students a course guide for finishing in four years.

Dr. David Johnson, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, said the focus on programs for improved graduation rates has been ongoing, though accelerated in recent years, and is part of a national focus on retention as demands increase for college graduates.

“It used to be that colleges and universities needed only to provide students an opportunity,” Johnson said. “They could just throw the students in the pool and see if they could swim, but now there is a greater emphasis on giving them support to help them swim.”

Johnson called the University’s responsibility for student success a “moral obligation.”

“We also need to be accountable to taxpayers, students, parents and the community to produce more graduates,” he said, “and citizens who are prepared to make a difference when they leave here.”

The work appears to be paying off. In recent years, freshman retention has ticked up six percentage points to 71 percent, and in a few years those increases should be reflected in improved graduation rates. Carr compares the process to the digestive flow of a snake – what’s dinner today takes some time to work its way down the line. The eventual goal for the University is an 80 percent first-year retention.

At the same time USA focuses on programs and policies on retention, it also has raised admission standards. The Board of Trustees recently gave unanimous approval to increasing the high school GPA requirement from a 2.0 to a 2.5 and phasing out conditional acceptance for ACT scores below 19.

Instead, the University will steer those applicants to the two-year college system with the hopes of admitting them after they have had an opportunity to raise their grades. It is a disservice to enroll students when data suggests they likely will struggle and drop out before finishing, Johnson said.

That may mean slower enrollment growth for the institution in the short-term but will result in a stronger University for the future and is a reflection of USA maturing in its 52<sup>nd</sup> year.

“We’re not abandoning the need to keep higher education accessible, particularly to those who may be first-generation students, those who come from disadvantaged backgrounds or students who want to obtain a degree later in life,” Johnson said. “That’s part of our history, and that’s never going to stop.”

*“Students who enroll here chose to invest in their education and be a part of the University of South Alabama. So we have an obligation to do everything we can to help them succeed.”*

Dr. Tony Waldrop, USA President



*Catherine A. Preston, left, was recently hired as director of the First Year Advising Center. She and nine other academic advisers will focus on first-year students as part of a strategic University effort to increase academic quality and student retention.*

# Your Alumni Team is Ready to Take the Field!

Greetings!

Thanks to all who participated in our second annual **J♥GUARSCARE** National Day of Service on April 18! Because of your caring and dedication, we far surpassed last year's inaugural event. On this special day we had approximately 22 service projects, both nationally and internationally, 654 volunteers, just over 1,200 service hours performed and an economic impact estimated at more than \$26,000. The support for this program has just been phenomenal and we couldn't be more proud!

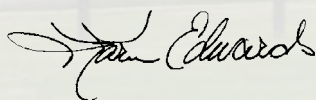
In this issue it is my pleasure to introduce to you two outstanding young alumni who are truly making a difference both locally and around the world. Jonathan Hursh '03 and Juan Torres '02, who were roommates in Hillsdale during their time at South, spent many late-night hours at their kitchen table discussing how they would make a difference in the world. And as you will see - they most certainly have!

In just a few weeks our Jaguar football team will take the field kicking off the 2015 season. Join us in **Jaguar Junction**, our pre-game alumni hospitality tent, on Saturday, Sept. 5, for the first home football game of the season against the Runnin' Bulldogs of Gardner-Webb University. And for those of you who like to follow the Jags on the road, our **Runnin' with the Jags** travel program kicks off on Saturday, Sept. 12, as the Jags take on the Nebraska Cornhuskers of the Big Ten Conference. For more information, visit our web site at [www.southalabama.edu/alumni](http://www.southalabama.edu/alumni).

Also in this issue, I am proud to announce the opening of our new online alumni store sponsored by the USA National Alumni Association. The merchandise in our store has been designed specifically for you, our Jag alumni and fans, and many items can't be found anywhere else! Visit us at [www.jagalumnistore.com](http://www.jagalumnistore.com) for your tailgate, game day and every day Jag gear!

In closing, I would like to thank the outgoing president of the National Alumni Association Board of Directors, Mike Diehl '73. Thank you for your commitment, leadership and dedication this past year!

Go Jags!



Karen Webster Edwards '80  
Executive Director  
USA National Alumni Association



The National Alumni Association leadership team consists of, shown clockwise from bottom middle, Executive Director Karen Edwards, Secretary Emily Alford, Assistant Director Marie Fox, Alumni Membership Specialist Coleman Wolf and Assistant Director Ailey Arrow Shirazi.

## Welcome Coleman Wolf '14!

Alumni Membership Specialist

A 2014 graduate with a degree in Professional Health Sciences, Coleman Wolf is originally from Scottsboro, Ala. During his time at South, Coleman served as SGA Vice President, SGA Chief Justice, SGA Senate Pro-tempore, 2013 Homecoming King and was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity. Prior to joining the Alumni team, Coleman served as Assistant Canvass Director and Turf/Mapping coordinator for Grassroots Campaigns, Inc.

Coleman's primary focus will be membership acquisition and development for the National Alumni Association. For more information on how you can become involved with your alumni association, contact Coleman in the Office of Alumni Relations at 251.460.7084 or email [colemanwolf@southalabama.edu](mailto:colemanwolf@southalabama.edu).





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In 2002, Jonathan Hursh '03 and Juan Torres '02 were roommates, living in the USA Hillsdale community. The two spent many late evenings around the kitchen table looking for ways to make the world a better place. Fast-forward more than a dozen years and Hursh has created INCLUDED, a non-profit organization to assist migrants living in slums in some of Asia's major cities. Closer to home, Torres runs a weekly mentoring program for Hispanic immigrants in Mobile called MANOS Helping Hands. They join hundreds of Jaguars across the country in making a difference in their communities every day.

## When thinking outside the box includes a box



*In the future, Hursh hopes INCLUDED grows to as many as 100 community centers in ten major cities around the globe.*

*Jonathan Hursh '03 believes in thinking outside the box. And in his case, the box is a shipping container that is changing the lives of migrants in China, Nepal and Bangladesh.*

*Jonathan Hursh believes in noticing the people on the fringe, those living on the edge of society, the outsiders who are forgotten. And in his case, it began in Atmore, Ala., where his parents cultivated a culture of service, to studying and volunteering while at USA, to developing INCLUDED, a non-profit organization that assists 10,000 people living in slums in some of Asia's major cities.*

*Jonathan Hursh believes in focusing on long-term change for migrant issues. And in his case, this includes policy change, as well as design and urban planning for slums, as up to one-third of the world's population will soon live in a migrant slum. As a result of his dedication to this segment of society, the Schwab Foundation named Hursh 2013's Social Entrepreneur of the Year.*

### From Mobile to Beijing

It's more than 7,300 miles from Mobile to Beijing, but the road that Hursh traveled from USA to China was fairly direct. As a student, he focused on international studies, but also worked 40 hours a week as a waiter and loaded delivery trucks.

He found time to volunteer at 15 Place, which works with homeless men in Mobile. "They just threw me in, gave me responsibility," Hursh said. "It was one of the first times I got to see beyond more short-term volunteering to how long-term agencies operate."

At USA, Dr. Harry Miller, Dr. Mir Zohair Husain and Dr. Stephen Morris supported Hursh's application for the competitive Boren Scholarship. This allowed him to spend two semesters in Beijing studying Mandarin at the Beijing Language and Culture University after graduating from USA in 2003.

"Not only did Jonathan diligently study Chinese, he also completely immersed himself in Chinese culture, and made China his new home," said Dr. Husain. "More importantly, he dedicated his life in his newly adopted country to making a significant difference in the lives of Beijing's migrant children and their families."

### What's INCLUDED with that?

While Hursh once planned a career with the state department, a visit to a Beijing slum changed everything. In 2006, he established a non-profit, non-governmental



organization that is today called **INCLUDED** to aid the migrant community living in Beijing's slums. "Inclusion has been a central theme throughout my life," he said. "A migrant is the literal outsider; they live on the edges of society. We believe we *all* deserve to belong."

**INCLUDED** meets the migrants in the slums. Hursh knows these families live in cramped and dirty conditions, the children lack adequate supervision and education, and the parents work long hours. **INCLUDED** ingeniously created community centers for these migrant communities out of shipping containers. Called 'Community Cubes,' they are sturdy and portable.

In the Community Cubes, migrant children attend Early Childhood Development programs, as well as after-school programs. Youth have access to life and vocational skills training in partnership with multinational corporations such as Peninsula Hotels and Subway. In the evenings and on weekends, parents can take advantage of family education classes. All services are provided free to the migrant families.

According to a United Nations report, Hursh knows that one in three people will live in a migrant slum in the next few decades. **INCLUDED** works to provide more opportunities for those residents. In the last eight years, he said, **INCLUDED** and its partners have created 31 community centers in four cities, helping 40,000 migrants a year. A team of 70 employees has dedicated millions of hours to this mission, on a budget of up to \$2 million annually.

## Hursh's Slums 2.0

In 2015, Hursh began transitioning to a broader founder and board member role with **INCLUDED**, beginning a new organization to complement the work of the first one. Still unnamed, it is focused on designing the future of slums and is positioned as a design and urban planning firm. He calls this the "Slums 2.0 approach," rethinking slums and their role in society. Hursh brings with him nine years of **INCLUDED**, relationship capital and a USA education, which has served him well over the years in meeting with ambassadors and dinners at the Houses of Parliament in London, where **INCLUDED** holds an annual fundraiser.

Recently, Hursh met with the mayor of Jakarta, Indonesia, who he calls the most progressive mayor in Asia, and was asked to design a slum strategy for the city and coordinate a large scale Slums 2.0 prototype to test the



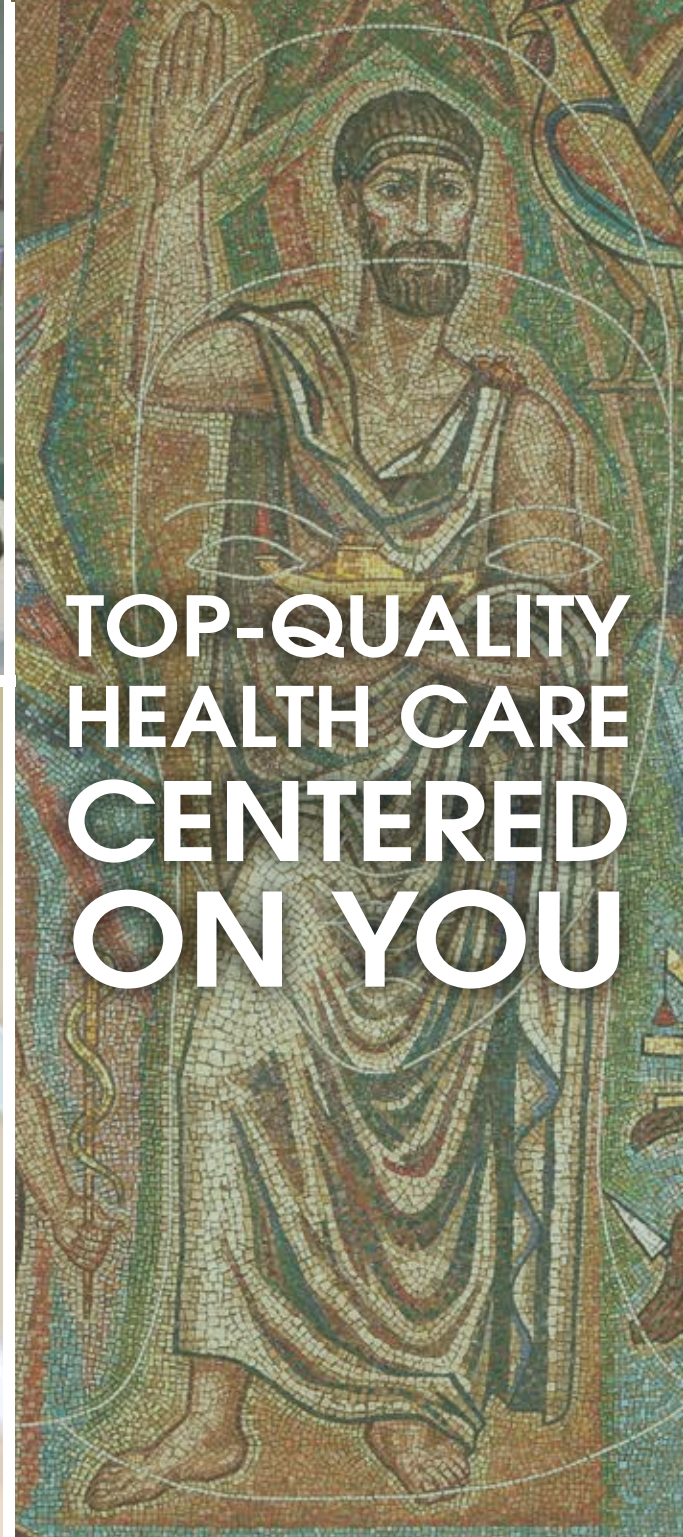
*Jonathan Hursh is hands-on in every aspect of the creation of the community centers, from buying light switch plate covers to raising awareness.*

new design that incorporates the physical, governmental and entrepreneurial nature of slums. The chief of staff for the president of the Philippines also asked Hursh to get involved with the strategy for the slums of Manila.

"Society is strongest when we are able to care for these groups," said Hursh. "Migrants are an asset. They help build cities, the economy. They are a social asset. They are eager to contribute. Included and educated children are better for all our futures."



*Today, **INCLUDED** runs five community centers in Beijing and two in Shanghai, as well as two in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Kathmandu, Nepal, community center is serving a community damaged by two earthquakes.*



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# PROVIDING A

# Helping Hand



*“You don’t need to speak Spanish. I want you to speak English,” Torres tells volunteers. Even so, some volunteers speak a little Spanish and some are bilingual.*



*“I worked as a child in the corn fields of Mexico when I was 13 years old, so I know what it feels like to work in the sun. At 14 years of age, I got my first check-paying job cleaning hotels, so I know what it is to work serving others. As much as we like to believe that we are different because we have been fortunate to have something others don’t, the truth is that we are very much the same.”*

When Juan Torres '02 was a young man on the streets of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, he couldn't imagine that 13 years later he'd be a professional, working in the occupational health and safety industry in Atmore, Ala. So today he focuses on paying his good fortune forward by helping the large local community of Hispanic immigrants in Mobile through a volunteer program called MANOS Helping Hands.

“Most immigrants rely on survival mode,” he explained. “Among the many challenges are poor education or no education, limited health care, no health awareness, intense poverty, a limited concept of local civics, low self-esteem, lack of understanding of American culture and (limited) language acquisition.”

To assist this growing population, in August 2014 Torres and his wife, Yohana Carrillo, developed MANOS Helping Hands to meet the needs of Hispanic adults, teens and children. There is a tutoring program that helps younger students with homework. An ESL (English as a Second Language) program helps parents, guardians and older students. And thanks to Goodwill, there is a GED preparation class.

“Our intention has been to serve those who cannot afford to pay for child care and

can't miss work, and most of all those that cannot afford to miss this opportunity,” said Torres.

Every Wednesday, immigrant families gather at St. John United Methodist Church in Mobile, met by a brigade of volunteers. They come from an array of backgrounds: students, lawyers, doctors, engineers, social workers, librarians and even a beauty pageant contestant.

One of Torres' most important roles is making connections. He understands the concerns of the migrant community and the importance of knowing who to speak with to meet particular needs—from heaters in the winter to school projects to legal referrals.

“When they are overwhelmed, I ask them to focus on what is important, on the reasons why they left everything behind for a new life in a new foreign land,” he said. “When they get scared, I remind them of their faith and the courage they have. They can look back at all the unknowns they encountered and use that experience to persevere and carry on in search of a better life.”

Torres hopes to impact Mobile's entire migrant community—Asians, Africans, Arabs, Hispanics and other ethnic groups—with a new program called BELONG.

“BELONG provides migrant children with a world of possibilities,” he said. “We envision a city where our migrant families are appreciated and valued for their contributions.”



*Migrant families and volunteers meet weekly at St. John United Methodist Church for tutoring, ESL and GED preparation classes.*

# All Paws on Deck! **J GUARSCARE**

## National Day of Service 2015

Jaguar alumni coordinated 20 projects throughout the U.S. and 2 international projects.



Southerners Oozeball Book Drive: 550 books donated to USA Children's & Women's Hospital through the Ann Briggs McCullough Memorial Book Drive.



Our total number of volunteer hours grew from 782 in 2014 to 1,204 in 2015.



Old Shell Road Clean-Up:  
125 volunteers,  
250 service hours.



The Second Annual **J♥GUARSCARE** National Day of Service was held Saturday, April 18, 2015. Jaguars all over the world gathered for service projects in their local communities, all in the name of the University of South Alabama.

As **J♥GUARSCARE** continues to grow, we want you to get involved! Check with your local chapter or contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 251.460.7084 to learn how to make a difference on next year's **J♥GUARSCARE** National Day of Service.

The Third Annual **J♥GUARSCARE** National Day of Service will be in April 2016.



**Girl Scouts of America  
Special Needs Field Day: 40  
volunteers, 160 service hours.**



**The economic impact of  
JaguarsCare jumped from  
\$17,204 in 2014 to  
\$26,488 in 2015.**



**Strength in numbers!  
Our volunteers increased  
from 174 in 2014 to  
654 in 2015.**



**Bay Area Food Bank: 25  
volunteers, 100 service  
hours, over 8,725 pounds  
of food sorted and boxed.**





## THE ELEMENTS OF ACHIEVEMENT.

**MADISON TUTTLE** might change the world. When she graduates, she plans to earn a doctorate and research novel anticancer agents. But without the Mitchell-Moulton Scholarship Initiative, she wouldn't be a USA student. Her ability is only catalyzed by your support. And your gift to MMSI will be immediately doubled, ensuring that students like Madison can change the world. For more information, call (251) 460-7032 or visit [southalabama.edu/development](http://southalabama.edu/development).



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA  
MITCHELL-MOULTON  
SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE



## New scholarship honors world famous filmmaker from Mobile

When world famous undersea filmmaker Mike deGruy was killed in a helicopter crash in Australia in 2012, former Alabama state Rep. Jamie Ison and her husband, Jay, were devastated. DeGruy, a lifelong friend of Jay's, was an inspirational figure in their lives and they continued to think about ways to honor his memory. Recently, the Isons established a scholarship fund at South in his memory to offer academic opportunity to students who share deGruy's passion for our oceans.

Born and raised in Mobile, deGruy was best known for his work filming the wreck of the Titanic with director James Cameron. He also won awards for his work for the BBC series "The Blue Planet."

deGruy's love for the water began early, with the Mobile Delta, Mobile Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. He was a swimmer, a springboard diver and a scuba diver. A Ph.D. program in marine biology drew him to the University of Hawaii, which led to a position as resident manager of the Mid-Pacific Marine Lab in the Marshall Islands. While diving and photographing there, he was violently attacked by a Grey

Reef Shark, but escaped with only damage to his right hand and scars.

The real excitement began with an assignment to Palau in the Western Caroline Islands, when the client gave deGruy a camera and asked him to document the trip. deGruy and his crew read the manuals for the 16mm Arriflex camera on the plane and then went to work. When he returned to Hawaii, deGruy quit graduate school and began his career as a filmmaker.

Over the next ten years, deGruy shot for big names like *National Geographic*, PBS and the BBC, then began producing and hosting films. Along the way, he earned numerous Emmy and BAFTA awards. His career included diving under the ice at both poles of the Earth, traveling to all continents and piloting submersible vehicles, as well as filming hydrothermal vents in both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and making hundreds of dives.

Today, the Mike deGruy Memorial Endowed Scholarship continues his work in the sciences. This new scholarship takes advantage of USA's Mitchell-Moulton Scholarship Initiative, a matching gift challenge that supports undergraduate

scholarships by matching any gifts to undergraduate scholarship endowments.

Jay Ison first met Mike deGruy in the first grade. The two became fast friends and kept in touch even as deGruy settled in California with his family. Their friendship spanned over 50 years.

The old friends spent a lot of time together after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, an incident that Ison said illustrated Mike's caring, deeply passionate nature.

"Mike was the kind of person the world needs more of," Ison said. "It's a shame that these students won't get to meet him, because he was such a dynamic person. Our hope is that these students will learn about him and his work and carry on his legacy through this scholarship."

deGruy's family also pitched in to help students learn more about his legacy.

Katherine deGruy, Mike's mother, was so moved by the scholarship that she donated DVD copies of seven of her son's documentaries to USA's Marx Library.

"I was thrilled to death when I learned that this scholarship had been established in Mike's memory," she said. "It really brought tears to my eyes."



The ultimate goal of the Mitchell-Moulton Scholarship Initiative is to create \$50 million in new scholarship endowments utilizing a dollar-for-dollar match program.

The \$25 million matching challenge, established by Abraham A. Mitchell, is an invitation to the University's alumni, friends and community partners to multiply their impact on USA and its students.

For more information or to become a part of the Mitchell-Moulton Scholarship Initiative, contact:

**University of South Alabama**  
**Office of University Development**  
300 Alumni Circle  
Mobile, AL 36688-0002  
251.460.7032  
mmsi@southalabama.edu

# Students Today Alumni Tomorrow Awards its First Scholarship

In April of 2015, Students Today Alumni Tomorrow (STAT) made history by awarding its first tuition waiver scholarship. STAT officially signed its \$20,000 scholarship endowment last year when the \$10,000 the students fundraised was matched through the Mitchell-Moulton Scholarship Initiative. This year's scholarship recipient is Amanda Moreno, a rising sophomore from Irondale, Ala., majoring in Human Resource Management.

Students Today Alumni Tomorrow is a student organization that works with the National Alumni Association to bridge the gap between South Alabama's students and alumni. For more information about STAT, please visit [southalabama.edu/departments/alumni/stat.html](http://southalabama.edu/departments/alumni/stat.html).



*STAT Advisors Nick Lawkis (far left) and Marie Fox (far right) stand with STAT President Samantha Otzenberger and 2015 scholarship recipient Amanda Moreno.*

## Alumna author publishes first book in trilogy



*Jeremy and Julia Gibbs and family*

What happens when you mix Miss University of South Alabama with the U.S. Army? You get an up-and-coming author who's receiving accolades for her apocalyptic coming-of-age story.

Julia Janasky Gibbs '03 graduated from USA, married Army pilot Maj. Jeremy Gibbs '01, and began her career as a military wife and author. Despite moving 21 times to three countries and nine states, she managed to find time to write "Our Hearts are Big Enough," which was included in *Stories Around the Table: Laughter, Wisdom and Strength in Military Life* and "Coming Home," which was featured in *Military Spouse Magazine*.

She recently published *The Oaks Remain*, a fantasy novel set on an isolated family plantation in southern Alabama that incorporates loyalty, tradition and personal responsibility. It is book one in The Simulacrum Saga. For more information on Gibbs' book, visit [www.theoaksremain.com](http://www.theoaksremain.com).

## USA Partners with the City of Gulf Shores to Add Satellite Campus

The University of South Alabama has a three-year deal with the city of Gulf Shores for a satellite campus opening in the fall of 2015. Located at the city's Cultural Center, USA Gulf Coast Campus includes both classroom and office space, with access to a conference space large enough to accommodate more than 500 people for lectures and other special events.

USA Gulf Coast's programs will focus on hospitality and tourism management with an emphasis on continuing education. The campus is managed by the School of Continuing Education and Special Programs. Interim Dean Dr. Jim Connors says this campus is a way for the University to extend their hand: "We take pride in showing all those we serve that USA is their university."



*Dr. Jim Connors, Interim Dean of Continuing Education (left), and Dr. David Johnson, USA Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs (far right), attend the ribbon cutting with Gulf Shores Mayor Robert Kraft.*



# Legislative Update

with Happy Fulford '73, MEd '91, USA's Executive Director of Governmental Relations and Nick Lawkis '09, MPA '11, Assistant Director of Governmental Relations

The Alabama Legislature convened for its 2015 Regular Session on March 3. The Senate completed its work on June 5 and the House followed on June 11. Representatives and senators introduced 1,210 bills during the session. Nick Lawkis (pictured at far right) and I monitored 194 of the bills closely and we actively engaged in working on 28.

The Education Budget passed and was signed by the governor on June 2. The fiscal year (FY) 2016 Education Budget of \$5.99 billion is an increase of \$59 million over the current year. The state's universities received \$1 billion of the total budget for an increase of \$15 million over FY 2015. The FY 2016 Education Budget, while slightly improved over the past two years, is still more than \$800 million less than the FY 2008 appropriation.

During the session, our office called on many of you to contact your local legislators regarding support for USA. We appreciate your commitment and time to help us deliver the USA message.

Thanks and Go Jags!

*Happy*

Happy Fulford  
Executive Director  
Office of Governmental Relations



U.S. Congressmen Bradley Byrne brought his Mobile staff to the Mitchell Cancer Institute (MCI) for a tour this past February. Pictured above, MCI Director Dr. Mike Finan, left, explains how MCI's Cyber Knife can deliver pinpoint accurate radiation treatments.

Top: Alabama House of Representatives General Fund Chair Steve Clouse (R-Dothan), left, recently visited USA's Children's and Women's Hospital and Mitchell Cancer Institute. Dr. Joel Andrews, a 2010 College of Medicine graduate and Assistant Professor of Oncologic Sciences, explains the makeup of a cancer cell during cell division. The image on the screen allows researchers to analyze the effects of anti-cancer drugs on cell division. Above right, Rep. Clouse (right) visits with Children's and Women's Hospital Administrator Owen Bailey, center, and Pediatric Nurse Manager Terri Wright, left, in the Treehouse playroom.

Senator Bill Hightower '84, (far left) along with Senator Greg Reed of Jasper (middle), recently toured USA's Children's and Women's Hospital with Administrator Owen Bailey (right). Senator Reed is Majority Leader of the Alabama Senate. He is extremely interested in the delivery of health care in Alabama and was instrumental in passing several key health care bills in the recent legislative session. Pictured above, Nurse Manager Renee Rogers, far right, shows Senators Hightower and Reed a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit baby diaper and a blood pressure cuff for a baby's wrist or leg, which is the size of a pencil.

## Rickert Named Gulf Coast Regional Care Organization CEO



University of South Alabama Alumnus Danny Rickert '84, who previously served as director of marketing for the USA Health System and practice director for USA's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, was named chief executive officer of the Gulf Coast Regional Care Organization in December 2014.

The USA Health System has taken the lead role in the development and implementation of the regional care organization, which will serve Medicaid patients in Baldwin, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, Mobile, Monroe and Washington counties. The organization is comprised of regional health care providers including rural, urban and academic physicians and hospitals, regional behavioral health providers and federally qualified health centers.





# What makes a *Southerner?*

The Southerners is a 20-member group of USA students who serve as the official ambassadors for the University of South Alabama. Current Southerner Ravi Rajendra is the recipient of the 2015 Steve and Carol Kittrell Southerner of the Year Scholarship and is the 2015-16 SGA President at the University of South Alabama. Rajendra shared his pride for the University in his scholarship essay submission.

## “Pride of the Red, White, Blue”

By Ravi Rajendra

*Being a Southerner is an amazing opportunity and honor in and of itself.* I remember waking up really early one morning in April of 2014. That was my first day on Southerner duty. That morning, I didn't put on my Jaguar red Southerner sports coat. Instead, I put on a Jaguar red t-shirt with “Southerners” stamped on the back, an old pair of sneakers and my South visor.

Several hours later, my “Southerners” t-shirt looked more mud brown than Jaguar red. My South visor was coated with mud spots caused by the splashing of Jags and volleyballs in 18 inches of mud. My first day on Southerner duty I was a referee on mud volleyball court number one at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Oozeball Tournament.

The slogan for Oozeball was “Got Ooze?” The answer to that question is yes. Yes, I got ooze all over me that day! By the end of the day, my sneakers weighed twice as much as they did when I put them on that morning because of the layer of mud that coated them. The mud had oozed into my sneakers and sealed all of my toes together, too!

Ooze and a whole lot of fun wasn't the only thing I got from Oozeball that day. That day, I got my first lesson as a Southerner. I learned that being a Southerner isn't about what I put on. I learned that being a Southerner isn't about what coats me on the outside. At the end of the day, the mud washed away, but one lesson stayed with me. I learned that being a Southerner is about the confidence I exude from within.

As referee, I had to be confident with my calls during the match. I could not doubt my decisions on whether a ball was in bounds or out. I had to be fair, firm and confident in order to keep the matches running smoothly. Similarly, I had to be confident in the team of Southerners surrounding me the day of Oozeball. I had to be confident that each of my fellow Southerners would excel at their roles and that together we would pull off the ooziest, most

fun Oozeball. At the end of the day, when we saw the smiling, oozing faces of our fellow Jags, we realized that we accomplished that.

Confidence is the primary ideal that a successful Southerner must have. Confidence isn't about what a Southerner puts on. Confidence is exuded from within. Confidence is not arrogance because confidence is realizing that I still have several more years to grow, learn and become a better Southerner. Confidence is having that first conversation with the new president of our University, Dr. Waldrop, and getting to joke with him about how he said, “Go Knights!” instead of “Go Jags!” at one of his first speeches. Confidence is going up to a guest that I don't know at the unveiling of the new Student Center to strike up a conversation so that they feel included at the event.

Being a Southerner is more than just looking stylish in the red Southerners sports coat. Being a Southerner is about confidently connecting with other people to share why the University of South Alabama is “the pride of the red, white, blue.”



We would like to welcome Dr. Nicholas Gossett '06 as the new Faculty Advisor for the Southerners. Dr. Gossett is Director of the Language Resource Center and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, and served as a Southerner during his undergraduate studies. We're very excited to have him involved with the Southerners again!

# OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



As we move into the fall, we're still enjoying the long, warm beach days and iced tea evenings that many of us anticipate all winter long. However, along with idyllic days, June 1<sup>st</sup> signaled the start of hurricane season here on the Gulf Coast. This is a season no one longs for and we face with noticeable trepidation. We have no control over hurricanes, coastal flooding, tornadoes, wildfires and

earthquakes and even some man-derived disasters like the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Recognizing this fact, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has invested \$20 million over five years to develop tools to lessen the impact of extreme weather and other severe hazards. Based at Colorado State University, the Community Resilience Center of Excellence is a multi-disciplinary team of ten universities, including the University of South Alabama, addressing ways to enhance post-disaster resiliency.

USA's Department of Civil Engineering will provide unique coastal engineering knowledge related to hurricane storm surge and waves. To help study the impact of wave stress on the built environment, the Department of Civil Engineering recently added a wave flume in Shelby Hall. Drs. Bret Webb and Scott Douglass will help develop risk-based



*Dr. Bret Webb, Associate Professor of Civil Engineering, shows off the wave flume, which is much longer than it is wide, with a mechanical wavemaker on one end, and the construction being tested on the other end. The side walls have glass to allow for observation of the experiments.*

tools that address vulnerability and resilience of the built environment to coastal hazards such as storm surge, waves, erosion and even sea level rise. They recently authored national engineering guidance for assessing the exposure and vulnerability of coastal transportation infrastructure to extreme events.

*Stephanie Cronister*

## Faculty Senate presents *Annual Awards*

The University of South Alabama Faculty Senate honored three community partners and a USA assistant professor of biology for distinguished service to others during its annual awards presentations. University President Dr. Tony Waldrop and Dr. Julie Estis, president of the Faculty Senate, presented the awards during a meeting at the Faculty Club on the University's main campus.

**Dr. Glen Borchert**, shown at right, Assistant Professor of Biology, received the **Semoon and Youngshin Chang Endowed Award for Humanitarian Services** from Dr. Julie Estis, left.

**Toni Ann Torrans**, director of Penelope House, which assists victims of domestic violence, was named as the **Outstanding Research Partner**.

The award for **Outstanding Teaching Partner** went to the History Museum of Mobile, represented by **Dr. David Alsobrook**.

The **Award for Outstanding Community Partner** went to **Richard Weavil**, former president of the Mobile Area Association of Realtors (MAAR).



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## SOUTH ALABAMA ATHLETICS CLAIMS VIC BUBAS CUP

On the strength of four Sun Belt Conference championships, the University of South Alabama was awarded the Vic Bubas Cup, which is presented to the league's top member in competition across 17 sports.

USA scored a total of 106 points, edging out Texas State by 1½ points while finishing two ahead of Texas-Arlington. Four Jaguar programs — soccer and men's cross country in the fall, baseball and women's tennis this spring — won league championships, while seven others finished among the top half of the standings. The Jag softball team, which advanced to its fourth NCAA Regional championship game in a row, finished second in the regular season before winning the SBC Tournament, with the men's tennis program advancing to the conference tournament championship and football tying for third en route to the school's first-ever postseason bowl appearance. Other USA programs finishing in the top half of the league included men's basketball, men's indoor and outdoor track and field, and men's golf.

The four Sun Belt titles were the most for the athletics program since collecting four in 2002-03.

"Receiving this award is extremely rewarding considering the excellent athletic programs and leadership we are competing against in the Sun Belt Conference," commented Jaguar Director of Athletics Dr. Joel Erdmann. "It is truly a team award that recognizes the efforts of 17 sports, 380 student-athletes, 12 head coaches, dozens of assistant coaches and support personnel, USA students, administration, faculty and staff, and tens of thousands of alumni, season-ticket holders, donors, sponsors and all those proud to be a Jaguar."



*This is the Jaguars' 11<sup>th</sup> time claiming the cup, the most for any school since the conference's inception in 1976, as well as the program's first all-sports championship since the 1999-2000 season.*

## JAGS WIN 15<sup>th</sup> SUN BELT CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

South Alabama captured the program's 15<sup>th</sup> Sun Belt Conference baseball championship, and its second in the past three years, after finishing 19-9 in league play this season. Head coach Mark Calvi was named the SBC Ron Maestri Coach of the Year for the second time in three seasons as well. Right-hander Kevin Hill was named the SBC Pitcher of the Year, and was named a Louisville Slugger second-team All-American by Collegiate Baseball to become the program's 27<sup>th</sup> All-American. Hill led the conference in wins (10), ERA (1.73), opposing batting average (.208) and strikeouts (107).



Three Jaguars – Cole Billingsley, Hill and Ben Taylor – were each named first-team all-SBC. Billingsley, Hill, Adam Ballew and Ryan Raspino were named to the SBC All-Tournament Team at the conclusion of the conference tournament. USA set a new single-season team record for fielding percentage (.978). The Jaguars led the SBC in batting average (.285), on-base percentage (.376), hits (528), walks (231) and sacrifice flies (27). The USA pitching staff led the league in ERA (3.22), opposing batting average (.243), strikeouts (442), hits allowed (441), runs allowed (207), earned runs allowed (174) and tied for the most wins (34).



## 2015 SUN BELT SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS

South Alabama reclaimed the Sun Belt Conference Tournament title in 2015, defeating the No. 10 Ragin' Cajuns 2-0 in the final after falling to ULL 6-3 a day before. USA earned the SBC's automatic bid to the national tournament and traveled to the NCAA Auburn Regional where it defeated Tennessee Tech 9-3, after a 1-0 loss to the host-Tigers to make a fourth-straight regional final appearance.

The Jaguars jumped ahead of No. 4 Auburn 4-1, but suffered a six-run Tiger spree to fall 7-4 in the final.



# We Are...



Meet us at the junction...



Leave the tailgating to us!

Join or renew your USA National Alumni Association membership before the 2015 football season to get access to Jaguar Junction!

Members of the National Alumni Association can enter Jaguar Junction free of charge and are permitted to bring up to three guests.

Jaguar Junction features free food and drinks, live music, visits from the Jaguar Marching Band, cheerleaders, SouthPaw and Miss Pawla, and much more!!

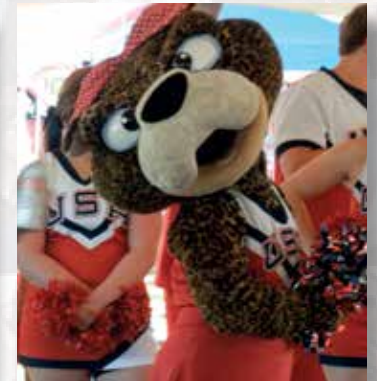
The 2015 Jaguar football season is right around the corner! Make sure you're ready!!

Visit [SouthAlabama.edu/Alumni](http://SouthAlabama.edu/Alumni) to become a member today!

## Your Tailgate Begins at Jaguar Junction!

Join us at Jaguar Junction for food, fun, spirit, live music and camaraderie as we cheer for our Jags at all six home games this season, beginning with the first game on Sept. 5. Jaguar Junction is open to all dues-paying members of the National Alumni Association and their guests. We're located in Ladd-Peebles' south parking lot and you can't miss us – we're the largest tent out there! Meet us at the Junction this football season!

- Must be a member of the USA National Alumni Association to enter – please present membership card.
- Members can bring up to three guests at \$10 per guest; Children 12 and under \$5; Children under five are free.
- Tent opens following the Jag Prowl and closes 30 minutes before kickoff.



\*\*Complimentary food and drinks will be available while quantities last. See tailgating policy and guest fee information on our website.





# ...#JagNation!







**Save the Date!**



## 2015 **RUNNIN'** with the **JAGS**



Sponsored by  
University of South Alabama National Alumni Association and South Alabama Athletics




**South Alabama Jaguars vs. University of Nebraska Cornhuskers**

  
 Saturday, Sept. 12, 2015 • Memorial Stadium


**South Alabama Jaguars vs. Texas State University Bobcats**

  
 Saturday, Oct. 24, 2015 • Bobcat Stadium


**South Alabama Jaguars vs. San Diego State University Aztecs**

  
 Saturday, Sept. 19, 2015 • Qualcomm Stadium


**South Alabama Jaguars vs. Georgia State University Panthers**

  
 Saturday, Nov. 21, 2015 • Georgia Dome


**South Alabama Jaguars vs. Troy University Trojans**

  
 Saturday, Oct. 3, 2015 • Veterans Memorial Stadium  
 The USA National Alumni Association will be offering chartered buses to the game and a pregame tailgating tent. Details to be announced soon.


**South Alabama Jaguars vs. Georgia Southern University Eagles**

  
 Saturday, Nov. 28, 2015 • Paulson Stadium

For more information on Runnin' with the Jags, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 251.460.7092 or email [kedwards@southalabama.edu](mailto:kedwards@southalabama.edu)  
 For more information on purchasing tickets, contact the South Alabama Ticket Office at 251.461.1USA or email [tickets@southalabama.edu](mailto:tickets@southalabama.edu)



# Jaguar Journeys 2016 Tours

The University of South Alabama National Alumni Association is proud to announce our 2016 tours! 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.

## Shades of Ireland – March 7-16, 2016

Discover the Irish spirit as you travel through magical Ireland, passing landscapes of rolling hills and its 40 shades of green. Get to know the warmth of an Irish welcome on your adventure that takes you to Dublin, Waterford, Killarney and Limerick. Make a stop at the historic House of Waterford Crystal where you'll discover the secrets of creating crystal masterpieces. Visit Blarney Castle and embrace the opportunity to kiss the famous Blarney Stone. Visit the stunning 700-foot high Cliffs of Moher for awe-inspiring views of the Atlantic.



## Cuban Discovery – April 2-10, 2016

Cradled between the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea, just 90 miles from Florida, lies an island of pivotal history and lush natural beauty, of rich artistic tradition and architectural grandeur. Off-limits to most American travelers for half a century, Cuba—one of the world's most enigmatic countries—is ready for you to unravel its mysteries.

As diplomatic relations between Cuba and the U.S. continue to develop, now is the perfect time to experience this long-isolated nation on the verge of great transformation. Join us on an extraordinary people-to-people exchange, specially designed to reveal the authentic spirit



and culture of Cuba—where 1950s-era automobiles still roll past magnificent Spanish colonial buildings. Together we'll encounter the true heart and soul of this colorful country by engaging with the diverse, inspiring people who call it home.

## Treasures of Northern California – August 7-15, 2016

From its most popular cities to fertile valleys and historic gold rush towns, many hidden treasures await as you explore northern California. Your tour opens in San Francisco, the beautiful "City by the Bay." Visit Fisherman's Wharf and the Golden Gate Bridge. View unique rock formations and pristine wilderness as you travel through Yosemite National Park. Travel over the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the resort town of Lake Tahoe. Climb aboard the Napa Valley Wine Train as you travel through California's treasured vineyards and arrive in Napa, one of the world's premier wine destinations.



## Adriatic Gems – November 1-9, 2016

Join fellow Jaguar travelers on this seven-night luxury cruise from Rome to Venice. Travel to intriguing ports of call including Naples and Catania, Italy; Argostoli, Greece; Kotor, Montenegro; Zadar, Croatia; and Koper, Slovenia, with the leader in alumni travel – GoNext and its preferred cruise partner, Oceania Cruises. From quaint villages fringed by sparkling blue seas to cosmopolitan cities graced with enchanting architecture, experience classic European destinations aboard the Riviera, which boasts the finest cuisine at sea.



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





# The University of South Alabama National Alumni Association 2015 Distinguished Alumni and Service Award Recipients



*This year's Distinguished Alumni & Service Award recipients were Greg Gabel, Andy Denny, Dan Grafton, Geri Moulton on behalf of Gordon Moulton, and Warren Nicholson (shown from left to right in the photo above).*

## Distinguished Alumni Award

Gregory S. Gabel '89, MBA '98  
Daniel A. Grafton '75  
Warren H. Nicholson '82, MSEE '89

## Distinguished Service Award

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

## V. Gordon Moulton Distinguished Service Award

V. Gordon Moulton (Posthumously)

## SAVE the DATE!

*The University of South Alabama is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2016 Distinguished Alumni and Service Awards, which will be presented on March 3, 2016.*

### Distinguished Alumni Award

Mr. Jonathan L. Hursh '03  
Mr. James H. "Jimmy" Shumock '80  
Dr. Mark Sloan Williams MD '80

### Distinguished Service Award

Mrs. Diana Kahler Laier '83 and Dr. James Emil Laier

### V. Gordon Moulton Distinguished Service Award

Mr. Christopher L. Lee

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Coping with cancer is difficult. Faced with so many treatment options, it's easy for patients and their families to feel stranded. But at USA Mitchell Cancer Institute (MCI), you're not alone. Our new Patient Navigator program gives you a dedicated professional who is there offering support and guidance every step of the way through the treatment process.

At MCI, you not only get leading edge research and state-of-the-art cancer treatments, you also get complete patient-centered care. That's the advantage of having an entire team behind you on your journey to wellness. That's how we're turning the tide on cancer.



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Fairhope, AL - 251-990-1850

# Looking Forward to Another Great Year



We are getting to that time of year again when Jaguar football is right around the corner! The first game of the 2015 season is at home on Saturday, Sept. 5, versus Gardner-Webb University. Other exciting home games this year include North Carolina State, Arkansas State, Idaho, UL-Lafayette and Appalachian State. The National Alumni Association will again sponsor the Jaguar Junction hospitality tent before each home game and I hope everyone will plan to attend at least one home game this year. Nothing is more fun than visiting with friends, cheering for Jaguar football and being entertained during half time by the Jaguar Marching Band! The NAA will, of course, also plan to host a pregame tent at the postseason bowl game the Jaguars are sure to play in again this year.

I also want to congratulate Jaguar Athletic Director Dr. Joel Erdmann, the entire coaching staff and our student-athletes for winning the prestigious Bubas Cup for the best athletic program in the Sun Belt Conference. The Bubas Cup dates back to 1977 and was last won by South Alabama in 2000.

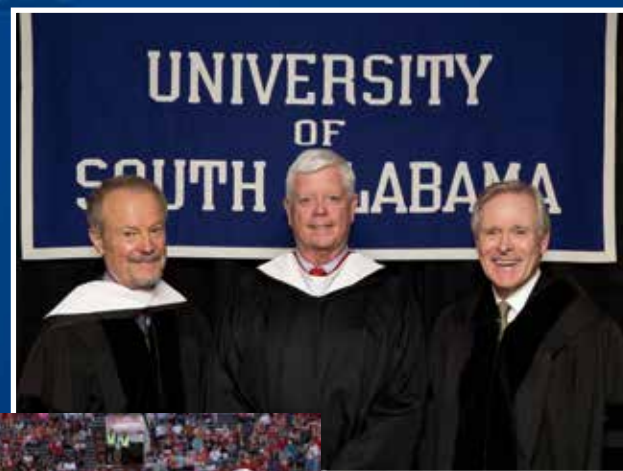
Another very important undertaking the National Alumni Association fully supports is the Mitchell-Moulton Scholarship Initiative (MMSI). This is a truly remarkable program made possible by the support and generosity of Abe Mitchell who established a \$25 million matching gift program to aid deserving students. The MMSI's ultimate goal is to establish \$50 million in new scholarship endowments that will have a far-reaching impact on our University for many years to come. Please consider a gift to the MMSI that will immediately be matched and double the impact of your support. You can get more information at the MMSI website: <http://southalabama.edu/development/mmsi.htm>.

Lastly, I want to thank all Jaguar supporters who participated in the 2015 **J♥GUARSCARE** National Day of Service. This year's event was very successful with more than 654 volunteers. The next **J♥GUARSCARE** National Day of Service is planned for April 2016.

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as your National Alumni Association President.

Go Jags!

Mike Diehl '73  
President, USA National Alumni Association



# CHAPTER NOTES



Baldwin County alumni are all smiles at the Spring Fling event at Boudreaux's Cajun Grill.



Members of the Birmingham Chapter gather at Red Mountain National for the Jimmy White Legacy Care.



Port City Chapter members enjoy the annual Sips for Scholarships fundraiser.



Jag fans gather at Ralph & Kacoo's for Meet the Coaches on Mobile's causeway.

## Ride with Pride!

Purchasing or renewing your license plate with a University of South Alabama tag helps put a student through college. Every JagTag sold contributes a significant dollar amount to the USA National Alumni Association Freshman Scholarships and Children of Alumni Scholarships. Visit your local license plate office or call the USA National Alumni Association today at 251.460.7084 for more information.



Starla has always loved to play like a princess...



*Today she is one.*

When Starla came to USA Children's & Women's Hospital, at age two, she was already very sick. The physicians soon diagnosed her with a rare form of leukemia. After a courageous battle, Starla is cancer free. Today she's still pretending to be a princess, but the physicians and staff at USA Children's & Women's Hospital know what a real princess she truly is.

From diagnosis and treatment to recovery, let USA Children's & Women's Hospital care for your family.


To learn more about Starla's story visit [f /usacwhospital](https://www.facebook.com/usacwhospital)




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**Children's & Women's**  
HOSPITAL

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# Class Notes

 - Lifetime Member

 - Annual Member


**1978**

**Betty Spence**, a retired newspaper writer and columnist, has published two books: *Traces of Presence* is a poetry book and *Daystar* is a book of devotions, prayers and poems.

**1983**

**Rhonda Davis** has been named the director of sales and marketing for the USS ALABAMA Battleship Commission.

**1990**

 **Regina Warner** was selected to be part of the inaugural class of the Presidential Leadership Scholars program. Out of 900 applicants, only 60 were selected, and Warner is the only graduate of a university in Alabama.

**1991**

**John T. Davis**, an Edward Jones financial advisor in Fort Payne, Ala., has been named a principal with the firm's holding company, The Jones Financial Companies, LLLP. He was one of only 45 individuals chosen from more than 41,000 associates across the United States and Canada to join the firm's 341 principals.




John T. Davis


**1998**

**Damon P.S. Andrew** (MS '99) was the recipient of the Southern District SHAPE America Scholar Award for 2015.

**2007**


 **Lieutenant Colonel Chad Gibson** (MA '07) was selected to be the Director of Operations, Public Affairs, for the Air Force Reserve Command at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

**2008**

 **LaTonya Matthews** was recently promoted to Patient Navigation Coordinator at the USA Mitchell Cancer Institute.

**Brooke Marsh** was promoted to Assistant Vice President and Internal Auditor for United Bank.

**2011**

 **Kim Proctor Lawkis** (MPA '13) has been promoted to Director of Child Nutrition Programs with the Bay Area Food Bank.

**Matthew Whiddon Peterson** graduated with a Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School in May.

**2012**

**Thomas Hughes** was the recipient of the Robert E. Hauberg Award from the Mississippi College School of Law, given to a student with the highest average in Constitutional Law.



Thomas Hughes

**Amanda Jones, CPA/CFF**, a senior accountant with Wilkins Miller, was recently awarded the Certified in Financial Forensics (CFF) Credential by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

**Anna Claire Steel** was the recipient of the Professor Carol C. West Memorial Award at the Mississippi College School of Law, presented to an excellent second year law student who is supportive of colleagues, demonstrates interest in Legal Writing and Family Law, and exemplifies the qualities and character of Professor Carol West.



 National Alumni Association Board Member and Trustee **Ron Jenkins '74**, middle, visited with May 2015 Commencement speakers U.S. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, left, and internationally recognized sports psychologist Dr. Richard Lapchick, right, before the ceremony.



Congratulations to **Nick Brownlee '13**, one of the five winning finalists in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, one of the most prestigious singing competitions in the world. This win makes him eligible for an invitation to participate in the Met's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program and to eventually sing at the Metropolitan Opera.

On stage before judges at the world-famous Metropolitan Opera in New York, Brownlee sang *Madamina, il catalogo è questo*, a popular piece from the opera *Don Giovanni* by Mozart, and the less well-known *Aleko Kavatina* from the opera *Aleko* by Rachmaninoff.

After graduation, he studied at Rice University in Houston and was accepted into major prestigious operatic apprentice summer programs. He is currently a member of the Los Angeles Opera

Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist Program under the direction of legendary operatic tenor Plácido Domingo.

"To say I'm proud of Nick for this achievement and all his accomplishments would be an understatement," said Dr. Thomas Rowell, area coordinator of vocal studies and director of the USA Opera Theatre. "This will establish him as a rising young American opera star, and as his first teacher and opera director, it gives me a great sense of satisfaction knowing that it started right here in the USA department of music...I am truly excited to watch his successes continue and can't wait to see what happens with his opera career."

## In Memoriam

Owen Gaston, 1969  
 Dorothy Russell, 1969  
 Ruben Moreno, 1970  
 James Noel Hill Jr., 1973  
 Thomas M. Tyrrell, 1973  
 David Zimlich Sr., 1974  
 Jane Lindsley, 1975  
 Anne Mandeville Inge, 1976  
 Carol France Schjott, 1976  
 Douglas Tappan, 1977  
 Mendelene Varene Broussard, 1979  
 Norma Alice Fulford, 1983  
 James C. Wilson, 1983  
 James Harold Brewer, 1984  
 Cheryl Renee Washington Brantley, 1985  
 Ronald Frederick Smith, 1988  
 David LeMaster, 1993  
 Douglas Wayne Morrison, 2005  
 Paul Wilson Howell, 2006  
 James Quiency Cobbs, 2012  
 Matthew Curtis, 2013  
 Kelei T. Morris, 2013  
 Dr. Alvin P. Rainosek, Faculty

**Alumni Association members are invited to send class notes to [alumni@southalabama.edu](mailto:alumni@southalabama.edu)**

## Baby Jags

**Sarah Ashley Tillman** was born to Jennifer Ashley Tillman and **Leonard Charles Tillman '84** on October 8, 2014.



Sarah Ashley Tillman

**Grayson Green** was born May 6, 2014, to **Mason Green '97** and **Katie Tolpin Green '07** and grandparents Chu and **Joe Green '69**.



Grayson Green

**Juliet Leigh Jackson** was born December 14, 2014, to **Kelly Jackson '09** and **William Jackson '07**.



Juliet Leigh Jackson

**Reese Charles Moffett** was born Feb 7, 2015, to **Julia Kirkland Moffett '00** and Terence Moffett.



Reese Charles Moffett

**Piper Elizabeth Rushing** was born February 9, 2015, to **Paula R. Rushing (Ladner) '05, '08** and **Sidney W. Rushing '05**.



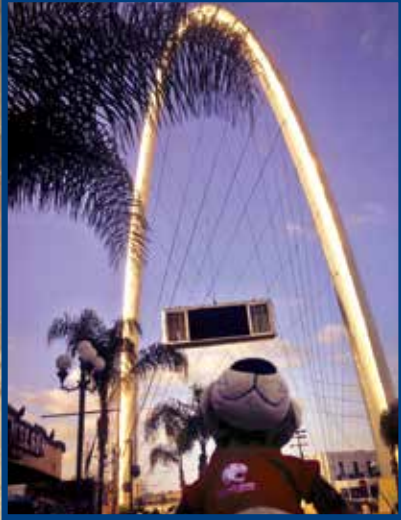
Piper Elizabeth Rushing

**Francis James Smith** was born on March 31, 2015, to **Mickey Smith '09** and **Megan Kennedy Smith '11**. He is also the grandchild of **Mike Kennedy '78**.



Francis James Smith

# WHERE IN THE WORLD IS SOUTHPAW?



Dan Lafayette MBA '07 enjoyed visiting Tijuana, Mexico, and Hoi An, Vietnam, and took SouthPaw along to enjoy the sights.



Jim Moore '90 and SouthPaw toured Kronborg, a castle in Denmark immortalized as Elsinore in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.



Shinta Stanley packed SouthPaw along on her recent trips to Heidelberg Castle in Germany and Afghanistan.



SouthPaw and his twin brother wrapped up in matching sweaters for a trip to Syracuse, New York, with Dr. Julee Waldrop.

SouthPaw visited St. Stephen's Green in Dublin with Dr. Bob Wood, dean of the Mitchell College of Business, then traveled on to tour Airbus in Toulouse, France.



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

Purchase your Traveling SouthPaw from the USA Bookstore.





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