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SOUTH

USA NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Fall 2016

like dissolves like

1:1	VS	SS	S
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Formula for Success

CATHERINE ZIVANOV WINS PRESTIGIOUS FELLOWSHIP,
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS, JAGUARSCARE,
USA HONORS COLLEGE, NCAA COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

SOUTH



The Fall 2016 issue of SOUTH is a publication of the Office of Alumni Relations and the USA National Alumni Association. It is intended to inform alumni and friends of current events and issues concerning them.

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University honors excellence and service.



FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

South graduate Catherine Zivanov wins prestigious Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship.



Creating your new home at USA



I am so excited to share with you our plans for the Julian and Kim MacQueen Alumni Center. Whether you graduated last year or years ago, this wonderful new facility will be your home on the University of South Alabama campus for decades to come.

Funded solely through gifts to the National Alumni Association, the MacQueen Alumni Center will feature two outdoor gathering spaces, including the 1974 Society Terrace (named for the year the Alumni Association was founded), an indoor-outdoor fireplace, a spacious lobby

for gathering and a well-appointed ballroom that will seat up to 300 guests. It will serve as home base for game-watch parties and post-game celebrations, Homecoming activities, alumni events and receptions, and University events. When you return to campus, either individually or as part of a group, the MacQueen Alumni Center will be your first stop! For information on how you can be a part of this exciting project, please contact the **Office of Alumni Relations** at **251.460.7092**. GO JAGS!

Karen Webster Edwards '80



Originally from Paarl, Western Cape, South Africa, Kotze —standing at 6'1" and 230 pounds — started competing in track and field as an eight-year-old.

Kotze shoots for the Olympics

“The way I was raised, my parents have always pushed me to be the best I can be in absolutely everything that I do,” said recent graduate Jan-Louw Kotze '16. No surprise then that he earned first-team All-American honors in the discus at the 2016 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championship this past spring, as well as first-team All-American honors academically.

As a junior in 2015, Kotze was honorable mention All-American in the discus after finishing 20th at the national championship. Not only did he qualify for the NCAA Championship for the first time in his Jaguar career, he won the event at the Sun Belt Conference championship with a 59.72m toss — a school and league record — while also earning all-conference honors with a third-place finish in the hammer throw and fourth in the shot put. Kotze earned third-team Academic All-American honors following that season.

Thanks to his 62.11m mark at the Florida Relays, Kotze is currently less than three meters from meeting the Olympic qualification standard in the discus. If he builds on his record of steady improvement displayed during his four years at South, Kotze might continue competing on the international level while chasing a childhood dream.

“It is something I have always wanted to do since I was very young,” said the exercise science and psychology major. “I remember watching the 2004 Olympic Games, and 2008 in Beijing, and I remember thinking what it would be like if I could compete there.”

South brings home the Bubas Cup

For the second year in a row and the 12th time overall, the USA Jaguars have been recognized for top academic and athletic performance.

The Jags earned the Vic Bubas Cup as the Sun Belt Conference's top member in competition across 17 sports. In winning the award, South recorded a total of 127 points—the school's highest figure since 2001-02.





Busta retires after 14 years of service

Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations Dr. Joe Busta has announced his retirement from the University this fall. During his tenure, the University has raised more than \$180 million from more than 87,000 donors.

In his 14 years with USA, Dr. Busta created and nurtured a comprehensive advancement and fund-raising operation from the ground up, significantly enhanced and broadened the alumni relations program and built strong connections with thousands of graduates, led the planning and successful completion of the University's first fundraising campaign and the 50th Anniversary campaign, and brought professional rigor and best practices to all of our development operations.

Most recently, Dr. Busta spearheaded the launch of USA's "Upward and Onward" fundraising campaign, an ongoing \$150-million effort.

USA graduate wins international singing competition

Nicholas Brownlee recently won the 35th International Hans Gabor Belvedere Singing Competition in Cape Town, South Africa, the latest in a growing list of prestigious operatic wins for the Theodore, Ala., native.

The win gave Brownlee, a 2012 alumnus, more than \$7,748 as the top performer, and he was offered contracts with two international opera companies.

Brownlee will make his Metropolitan Opera debut on Dec. 5 in the production of Richard Strauss's *Salome*.

Shewmakes endow two undergraduate scholarships

Joe and Audrey Shewmake recognize the value of a college degree. Joe graduated in 1970 with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and has enjoyed successful careers in information systems and wholesale distribution. Audrey received a degree in secondary education from the University of Montevallo in 1972. She taught high school before transitioning into the health insurance business.

The Shewmakes presented the university with a substantial planned estate gift that will create two endowed scholarships for undergraduate students. The scholarships will be renewable for four years, and will be applied toward the student's tuition, up to 100 percent.

The Joe and Audrey Shewmake Computing and Math Scholarship will assist qualifying USA students majoring in mathematics or computing. "Today, computer technology is everywhere," Joe Shewmake said. "Opportunities abound with businesses and also for entrepreneurial ventures. A college degree in computing or math is more valuable than ever."

The second scholarship is the Joe and Audrey Shewmake Endowed Scholarship. It will support qualifying USA students regardless of their academic field.



Medical building named after USA dean, wife

The new USA Physicians Group clinical office building was named in honor of Dr. Samuel J. Strada, who retired as dean of the USA College of Medicine, and his late wife, Judy.

The 133,000 square-foot Judith Susan and Samuel Strada Patient Care Center opened this past summer and contains 153 patient exam rooms, 16 nurses stations and seven educational conference rooms. It is located across from USA Children's & Women's Hospital.

Dr. Strada provided 33 years of leadership, serving as professor and chair of pharmacology, senior associate dean and dean, acting director of the graduate program in basic medical sciences, assistant dean for admissions, acting chair of psychiatry and faculty athletics representative from 1990-97.





Maire Nakada welcomed contestants—and showed off her “J Hand”—at the 2016 Distinguished Young Women National Competition held in June in Mobile.

Keeping on her toes

Maire Nakada is a long way from home. She experienced Mobile as Alaska’s representative in the 2015 Distinguished Young Women scholarship program.

Nakada won the competition, and was named the Distinguished Young Woman of America. She enrolled at USA, along with five other 2015 DYW representatives. She currently serves as a Southerner, one of the University’s official ambassadors.

During high school, Nakada moved to Dublin, Ireland, to study competitive Irish dancing. She is one of the top 40 Irish dancers in the world and one of the top ten in North America.

A USA nursing student, Nakada plans to attend medical school. Her goal is to become an ophthalmologist and work for an organization such as Doctors Without Borders.



USA Board of Trustees elects new officers

The USA Board of Trustees elected three new officers in July for the next three-year term.

Kenneth O. Simon (above right), a Birmingham attorney, was elected chair pro tempore. A native Mobilian, Simon received his bachelor’s degree in history in 1976, where he was the first African-American SGA president. He has served as vice chair since 2013.

Businessman James H. “Jimmy” Shumock (above left) of Mobile was elected vice chair. A certified public accountant, Shumock earned his bachelor’s degree in 1980 from USA’s Mitchell College of Business. He is currently the chairman and CEO of Thompson Holdings Inc. and Thompson Engineering Inc. He served as board secretary since 2013.

Mobile philanthropist and civic volunteer Arlene Mitchell was elected secretary. Mitchell, whose family has generously supported USA, attended the University of Pennsylvania. She has served on numerous boards, including the board of directors of the Community Foundation of South Alabama, for which she served as president.

Upward & Onward

A CAMPAIGN FOR
THE UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH ALABAMA

Upward & Onward Campaign Update

During the past year, South hosted Onward & Upward Campaign receptions for alumni and friends in 12 cities across the United States. Hundreds of alumni attended these receptions, enjoying the wonderful camaraderie and networking opportunities. Many shared ‘South’ stories during the receptions, including a few ‘Hillsdale’ tales. Our Regional Campaign Committee members are in the process of planning receptions for 2017, so stay tuned for details.

As we near the completion of the first year of the public phase of the Upward & Onward campaign, 22,148 donors gave \$92,024,590 in 28,907 gifts! In the coming year, we will continue to strive to advance our five priorities, which include student access and success, enhancement of research and graduate education, global engagement, excellence in health care and University-community engagement.

Three new deans join USA

USA welcomed three new academic deans this year. Dr. John V. Marymont began work July 1 as vice president for medical affairs and dean of the College of Medicine. Before coming to South, he was chair of the department of orthopedics at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport. On Aug. 1, Dr. Gregory H. Frazer began his tenure as dean of the Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health Professions. Frazer comes to South from Duquesne University, where he served as the dean and professor of the John G. Rangos Sr. School of Health Sciences. USA also welcomed Dr. Richard Carter as the new dean of the School of Continuing Education and Special Programs. Carter started at South on Sept. 1, after serving as the executive director of the School of Distance Learning, International Studies and Outreach at Western Illinois University.



Marymont



Frazer



Carter

GOLDSTEIN'S

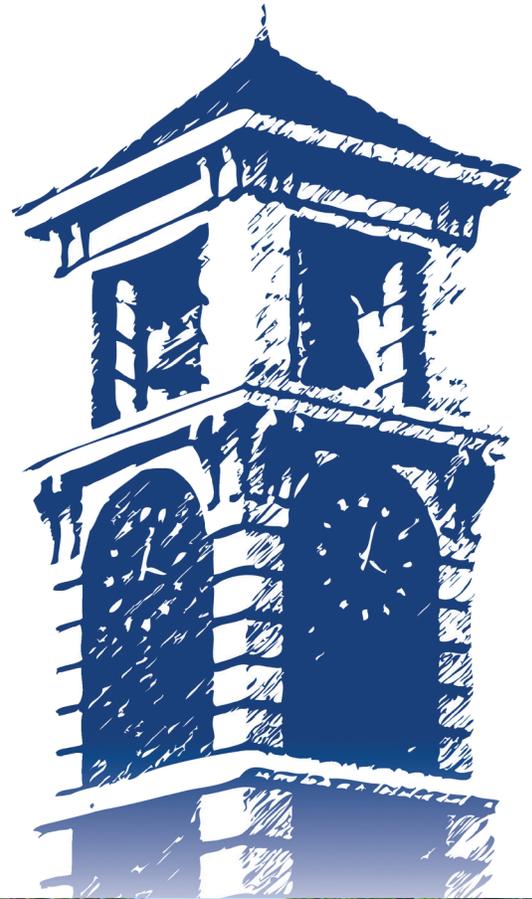
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The Formula for Success

Catherine is pictured here in the lab with her mentor and chair of the Chemistry Department, Dr. David Forbes.

South graduate
Catherine
Zivanov wins
prestigious
\$15,000
Phi Kappa Phi
Marcus Urann
Fellowship.

T

The University of South Alabama was a part of Catherine Zivanov's life long before she registered for her first class. As a student at Mary G. Montgomery High School in Semmes, Ala., she attended Tuesday Evening Physics and Thursday Evening Chemistry seminars at USA, both out of interest and for the extra credit. In the 10th grade, she attended a general chemistry lecture just for the experience.

Zivanov liked what she saw, and applied for and was accepted into the University Honors Program and the College of Medicine Early Acceptance Program, starting classes in August 2012. The valedictorian of her high school class, she received a Whiddon Scholarship, which covered her tuition and other expenses.

At USA, Zivanov found her passion in the chemistry lab. As a rising sophomore, junior and senior, she secured sponsorships for summer research and even published an article in *Biochemical Pharmacology*. Dr. David Forbes, chair of the Chemistry Department, calls this an almost unheard of accomplishment for an undergraduate.

As a rising senior, Zivanov was an National Science Foundation Summer Research Fellow, working in the labs of Professor Rob Stockman of the University of

Nottingham. Zivanov was responsible for the design, synthesis and testing of lead compounds. Once characterized, she was able to observe and analyze the affect of these compounds on biological systems.

"Catherine is a model of success as a student and an undergraduate researcher," said Dr. Forbes. "Her work is truly exceptional, as she not only prepared systems to be tested, but based upon the results she obtained, formulated and performed controls validating key interactions when wanting to pursue potent and selective next-generation inhibitors of protein phosphate."

Zivanov's work culminated in the publication of her senior thesis, "Development of Protein Phosphate Inhibitors: Potential Candidates for Therapeutic Cancer Treatments," which addresses designing, synthesizing and testing protein phosphate inhibitors in search of therapeutic cancer treatments.

"Our project, which effectively integrates molecular biology, biochemistry, organic chemistry and computational modeling, has given me the unique opportunity to serve as the conduit between multiple scientific fields," explained Zivanov.

“Combining this work with her success abroad as a contributing member in the labs of Dr. Rob Stockman, all while maintaining perfection in the classroom during her four years here at the University of South Alabama—Catherine exemplifies Dr. Arnold Beckman’s philosophy that ‘there is no satisfactory substitute for excellence,’” said Dr. Forbes. Beckman was an American chemist, award-winning inventor and philanthropist.

Now Zivanov is a student at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. With her 4.0 GPA in the University Honors Program, a Goldwater Scholarship and an NSF travel grant to the American Chemical Society’s National Meeting, she was such an attractive candidate that Vanderbilt offered her a Cornelius Vanderbilt Scholarship, which covers 75 percent of her medical

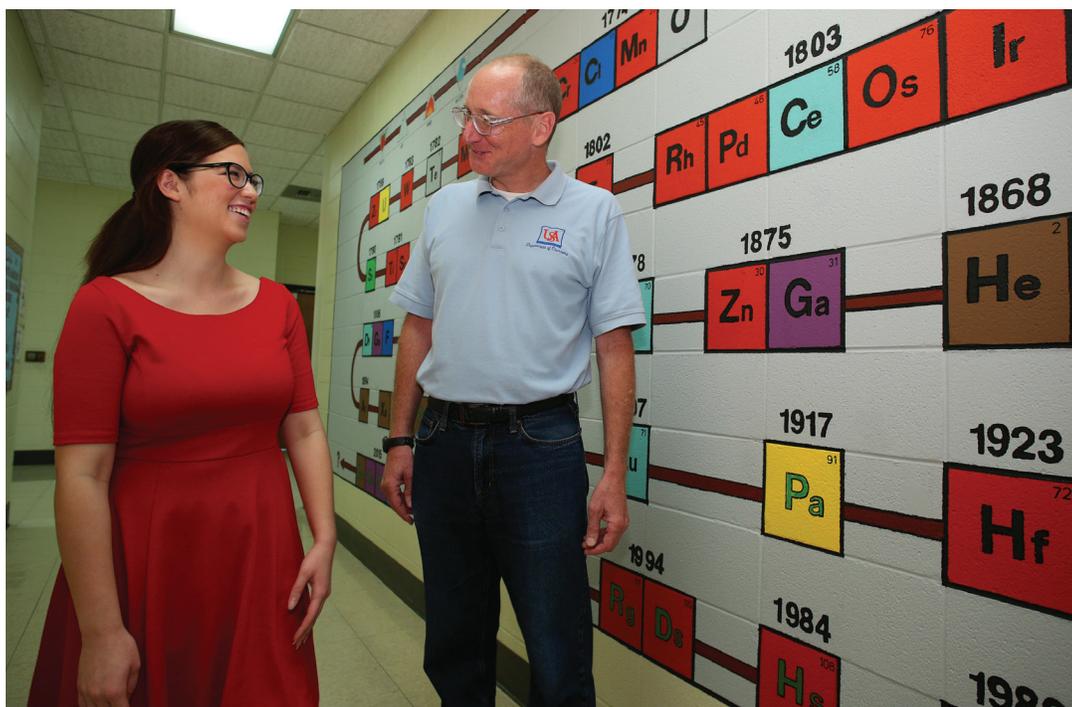
school tuition for four years. Zivanov was also one of six recipients to receive the \$15,000 Phi Kappa Phi Marcus Urann Fellowship.

While Zivanov was accepted at Harvard Medical School, with a sizable scholarship, Vanderbilt offers accelerated pre-clinical education, as well as the ability to tailor her medical education to fit her specific interests. For Zivanov, this means a career as an academic physician.

“I hope to contribute to advances in the field of medicine by conducting research on pathogenesis, and I would like to be actively involved in the clinical translation and application of my findings,” she explained. “I would also like to teach at the post-graduate level and have recently developed an interest in community and global health initiatives.”

“I hope to contribute to advances in the field of medicine by conducting research on pathogenesis, and I would like to be actively involved in the clinical translation and applications of my findings.”

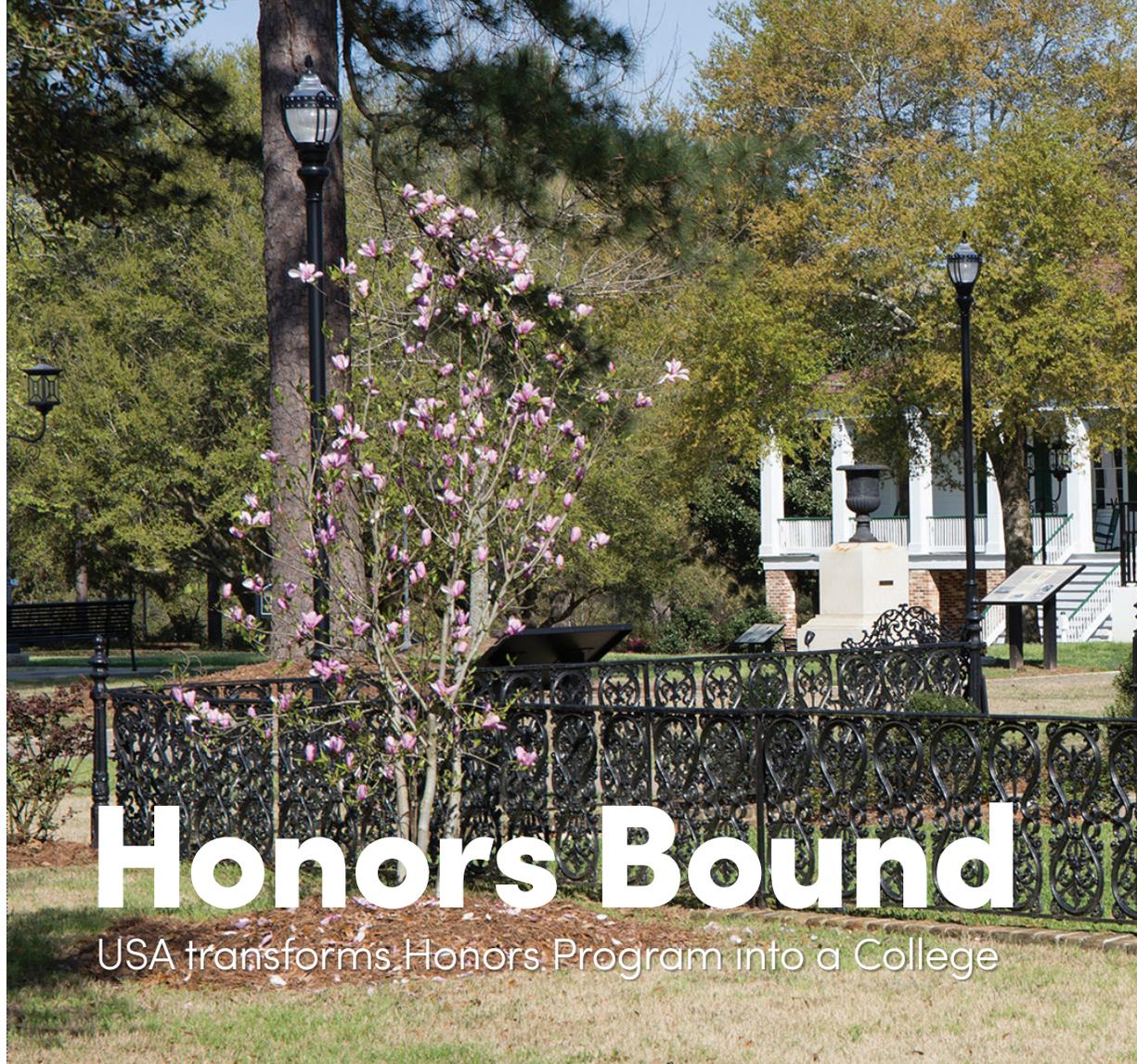
—CATHERINE ZIVANOV



Catherine Zivanov graduated Summa Cum Laude from USA in May 2016 with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and a minor in biomedical sciences. She was a member of the University Honors Program and held offices in numerous student organizations, including the Alpha Epsilon Delta Pre-Health Honor Society.



South
has launched
an ambitious
transformation
of the current
Honors Program
into an
Honors College,
a move that will
answer student
demand and
increase USA's
appeal to
high-achieving
students.



Honors Bound

USA transforms Honors Program into a College



Honors program director Dr. Michael Doran discusses some of the new changes with honors student Maegan Baldwin.

MMaegan Baldwin was nervous. As a prospective new student in 2014, she traveled from her home in Madison, Ala., to interview for a spot in the University of South Alabama's Honors Program. It was a new place, with new people, and she harbored some anxiety about how she would fit in. "I was talking to the guy who was showing my mom and me around," Baldwin said, "and he kept reassuring me that any fandom that I could possibly be a part of, there was someone in the Honors Program with the same interest that I could geek out with."

It all went the way she had hoped. Baldwin was admitted to the Honors Program, found people to connect with and now, as a junior, looks back at that time as the beginning of a new era in her life.

Next year, honors students like Baldwin will be part of another new era for South. The University has launched an ambitious transformation of the current Honors Program into an Honors College, a move that will respond to student demand and increase USA's appeal to high-achieving students. The new Honors College also will have new academic tracks that will appeal to a diversity of student interests.

"South's Honors Program has been extremely successful in educating top-level students and preparing them for jobs, graduate programs, fellowships and medical school. In fact, it's been so popular, each year we have to turn away qualified students," said Dr. David Johnson, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. "Developing an Honors College was a logical step as the University boosts recruitment, retention and academic achievement."

The Honor's Program typically admits 45 students each year. Last year, nearly six times as many applications met the admissions standards, and 100 of those prospective students were brought to campus for an interview to compete for a spot. "There's obvious demand," said Dr. Michael Doran, program director.

Honors Program students are paired with a faculty mentor, conduct research as an undergraduate, and write a thesis. Students attend special honors events and are encouraged to take leadership roles at the University.

The Honors College, which launches next fall and will expand to 150-200 new students enrolled each year by 2018, will offer new academic tracks



Step Up to the Plate

It's time to personalize your ride with Jaguar pride. Custom USA license plates already support scholarships for students, and beginning this fall, a portion of plate sales will support Honors College students, said Karen Edwards, director of alumni relations.

JagTags are \$50, in addition to the normal cost of purchasing the license plate. South receives a portion of the proceeds from each sale, and this year the Mitchell-Moulton Scholarship Initiative will match that amount. "Your investment in education immediately doubles," Edwards said.

Last year, even before the matching gift was in place, vehicle owners purchased nearly 2,000 University of South Alabama plates, raising \$72,875 for scholarships.

License plates can be personalized at no additional cost. To reserve a tag and find out how you can support South in six characters, go to revenue.alabama.gov/motorvehicle and click on "Search or Reserve a Personalized Tag Message" and enter "University of South Alabama" in the search box.



with unique capstone experiences in lieu of a thesis. Students can take the thesis route, which includes a Frederick P. Whiddon Scholarship, or they can opt for one of the new tracks.

"We've had highly qualified students enroll at the University but not to the Honors Program because the thesis requirement was not something they thought would help them based on their area of academic study," Doran said. "The Honors College will offer options that better fit those students' needs."

University leadership is considering the creation of an international honors track, for instance, that would incorporate an enhanced study abroad experience. Other tracks under consideration include ones that focus on health professions, technology and entrepreneurship.

The various tracks aim to keep the honors experience small enough to be personal, yet large enough to allow for what Doran calls a "critical mass" in each discipline. "So when you have eight engineering honors students taking circuits together," Doran said, "they can help each other."

All honors students will get to participate in group events, including seminars, honors orientation and the annual retreat, as they do now. A dean will be

hired to lead the Honors College, and the University will hire or utilize existing faculty as coordinators for each participating track.

Baldwin remains friends with the people she met at her first retreat. She picked South and the Honors Program, in part, because "I appreciated there was going to be a community aspect, that I'd be a part of a group, that I wouldn't be hiding out in my dorm."

As a double major in accounting and business management with a focus on entrepreneurship, Baldwin admitted there are fewer students like her in the Honors Program, as compared with students in fields of study that are traditionally more thesis-oriented.

An honors track in entrepreneurship, she said, would have been a selling point during her college search and would likely bring in other students with her same interests.

"Ever since I was a kid, it was pretty obvious I was taking this route," Baldwin, said of her interest in business. "The Honors Program helped me with class selection and getting to know my teachers. Without it, I wouldn't have the friends or roommates that I have now. I've been forced out of my comfort zone for the better."



The University of South Alabama's 12th annual Distinguished Alumni & Service Awards, sponsored by the National Alumni Association, honored six University community members for their excellence, dedication and generosity.

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes alumni for exceptional or continuing service to the University, community, state, nation or an international country. The V. Gordon Moulton Distinguished Service Award recognizes exceptional or continuing service to the University of South Alabama and/or the Alumni Association by a non-alumni. The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes outstanding achievement and/or leadership demonstrated by the recipients in their chosen fields of interest, or to the University of South Alabama, over an extended period of time.

Distinguished Alumni & Service Awards

University Honors Excellence and Service



Mr. Christopher L. Lee

2016 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

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

Diana and Jim Laier have been loyal, long-time supporters of the University of South Alabama, and they are true examples of hard work, dedication and servant leadership on behalf of higher education. Diana Laier is a past president of the USA National Alumni Association, serving from 2006-2007. Dr. Laier is the former associate dean of the College of Engineering at South.

Dr. Laier served on the board of directors for the Jaguar Athletic Fund and Diana Laier served on the Athletic Hall of Fame selection committee.

They established the James and Diana Laier Graduate Engineering Scholarship. Additionally, the Laiers contributed to the Stanky Field renovations, as well as Moulton Tower and Alumni Plaza, and the Shelby Hall Bronze Jaguar Society.

The Laiers are founders and owners of Southern Earth Sciences, Inc. (SESI), a geotechnical engineering, construction materials testing and environmental consulting firm.

2016 V. GORDON MOULTON DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Mr. Christopher L. Lee

Christopher Lee is known as a champion for service to others, serving 22 years with the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard where he flew both rotary wing and fixed wing aircrafts. He also served as director of the Navy's aviation plans and programs at the Pentagon.

Following retirement from the Coast Guard in 1994, Lee served as executive director of administrative services for the City of Mobile under the leadership of former Mayor Michael C. Dow. He also was an adjunct faculty member at the University of South Alabama in the department of political sciences and criminal justice in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Lee currently serves as executive director for the J.L. Bedsole Foundation, where he directs the activities of a multi-million dollar foundation that provides post-secondary educational scholarships and supports economic development initiatives. The foundation serves to advance civic, cultural and artistic programs throughout five counties in Southwest Alabama.

2016 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Mr. Jonathan L. Hursh '04

Jonathan Hursh of Atmore, Ala., began volunteering as a teen, displaying early his drive to help others.

In 2004, the recipient of the highly competitive Boren Scholarship used his international studies degree from USA to return to Asia for a second time. He found his future during a visit to an Asian slum, one of thousands where nearly one in six of the world's citizens live.

In 2006, he launched INCLUDED, a social enterprise to redesign slums and their role in the city for this century. INCLUDED has built and manages dozens of community centers in migrant slums in Beijing, Shanghai, Kathmandu and Dhaka. INCLUDED is on a path to build out a linked network of 10 strategic cities and 100 community centers across the world, all because Hursh deeply believed that smart cities are inclusive cities toward their migrants.

Recently, he launched UTOPIA, the world's first ever design and urban planning firm focused solely on slums. UTOPIA creates new perspectives on releasing the potential of slums for the entire world.

Hursh, who was named a Schwab Foundation Social Entrepreneur of the Year, is an advisory board member of the World Economic Forum's Urban Development Initiative and was recently appointed to the advisory board of Harvard University's new Master of Design Engineering program.



Mr. Jonathan L. Hursh '04

2016 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Mr. James H. Shumock '80

James H. "Jimmy" Shumock has spent more than 27 years building his successful business, but the CEO of multi-lined engineering firm Thompson Holdings and Thompson Engineering remained in close contact with his alma mater.

He currently is vice-chair of the University's Board of Trustees, and he has endowed an accounting scholarship in honor of his parents, Hollis and Carmel Shumock. He was a founding member and is the current president of the Jaguar Athletic Fund, and his firm serves as title sponsor of the Jaguar Challenge Golf Tournament.

Shumock serves the State of Alabama on the Alabama Road Builders Association and has been a past officer and director of the Mobile Jaycees and the Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo. He has served as a director of both the Coastal Conservation Association and the Greater Gulf State Fair, and has been active in Leadership Mobile and the Mobile Area Sports Association.

2016 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Dr. Mark S. Williams '80

Dr. Mark S. Williams was one of the earliest graduates of the USA College of Medicine in 1980.

Today, Dr. Williams is chief physician executive with Tenet Healthcare/ Brookwood Medical Center, a 645-bed full service acute care facility in Birmingham. Brookwood is widely recognized for its cardiology, oncology, mental health and orthopedic programs with a workforce of more than 3,000, including 800 physicians. Still, Dr. Williams gives regular presentations to the USA medical alumni reunions, has spoken to USA medical students on health care reform, and has presented the Richard Goldhammer Endowed Lecture for the USA College of Medicine and the USA Health System.

Previously, Dr. Williams served as CEO of an anesthesia physician group, board chairman of the Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation, senior vice president and chief medical officer for St. Vincent's Hospital in Birmingham, and chief medical officer of the North Mississippi Health System in Tupelo, Miss., which is the largest rural health system in the nation.

Currently, Dr. Williams is president of the Southern Medical Association.



Mr. James H. Shumock '80



Dr. Mark S. Williams '80

Distinguished Alumni & Service Awards THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2016



As committee chairman, Erdmann was responsible for overseeing all operations of the championship game from logistical concerns to competitive issues.



At the conclusion of this year's College World Series, Dr. Erdmann was recognized for his service by the NCAA.

Outta the Park

USA athletic director helps select College World Series teams.

South Alabama Athletic Director Dr. Joel Erdmann spent two weeks this summer watching baseball games. All in a day's work for the chairman of the NCAA Division I baseball selection committee.

The role put Erdmann – and the University of South Alabama – into a notable public position. As head of the committee, Erdmann led the group responsible for choosing the teams that competed in the 2016 regional tournaments, which culminated in the College World Series in Omaha, Neb.

When Coastal Carolina defeated Arizona to win the series, Erdmann's year as committee chair, and four years as a member of the committee, came to a close.

As committee chairman, Erdmann was responsible for overseeing all operations of the championship in Omaha, from logistical concerns such as batting practice schedules and post-game news conferences to competitive issues such as drug and bat testing, as well as any on-field controversies and the on-site replay system.

"Joel's been a great representative of Division I college baseball," Ron Prettyman, the NCAA's managing director of championships and alliances, said Monday. "I've been here literally every game of the College World Series, and as chair, Joel has as well. Sometimes that's not easy to do, but Joel's been down on the field, helping our staff and managing this event, and has just done a great job."

Erdmann said each level of the process presents challenges in selection and seeding, from choosing the No. 1 overall seed and the top eight national seeds, to the 16 regional hosts, down to the final few at-large

berths of the 64-team field. The committee follows teams throughout the season through a network of regional advisory committees, then meets on Memorial Day weekend to make its selections.

"You really can't point at one measure and say that is it, that's the heavy one," he said. "If it was just the RPI (Rating Percentage Index, a power rating that leans heavily on strength of schedule), there would be no need for the committee. You'd have a computer spit it out and there you go. The RPI is where we begin, that's kind of the placeholder, but it is a full body of work. It's who you've played, where you played them, when you played them and how you did against them."

Erdmann has been South Alabama's athletic director since 2009. A former baseball player at South Dakota State, he served as an assistant baseball coach at Pacific and a graduate assistant at USA before going into administration. He worked for a few years at USA, then had stints at the University of North Alabama and Southeastern Louisiana University before returning to South Alabama as athletic director.

"For me personally, it validates that what we do in college athletics is good and it's fair and that the process of great collegiate, amateur competition, leading up to the highest level of play possible, is done and conducted in a way that we can all be very proud of," he said. "Sometimes in the world we live in, we get overpowered by negativity and distractions that take our attention away from the core of what we do. This experience kind of brings me back to center a little bit and reinforces that what we do is good. We educate kids and allow them to play the game they love."





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Five siblings succeeded thanks to South

Oyler family sees USA as “too good to pass up”

When Donald and Carolyn Oyler moved to west Mobile in 1974, the University of South Alabama was a fledgling university, only ten years old. There was no Shelby Hall or Moulton Tower. No Mitchell Center or Rec Center. Just a handful of classroom buildings that opened to a world of opportunity.

According to their son Richard Oyler '82, the University offered a quality, affordable college education. For a large family of five children, that opportunity was too good to pass up. Each of the five Oyler children would ultimately call the University of South Alabama “alma mater.”

And, as Richard put it, his diploma is “more than just a piece of paper, it translated to competitiveness on a national level” for him and his siblings. Indeed, they

have each attained significant success in their careers, validating their parents’ strong belief in a quality education.

Donald Oyler was a U.S. Navy pilot and Carolyn Oyler graduated from Mobile’s Toolen High School. While Carolyn never got her own “piece of paper” indicating she graduated from college, her daughter Julie said her mother may be the most educated of all the Oylers.

Carolyn Oyler was a tireless advocate and a passionate supporter of each of their endeavors. She didn’t need letters behind her name to prove she believed in education.

“We were her dissertation,” Julie said.



The Oyler siblings – all South graduates – credit their parents, Donald (standing, left) and Carolyn (standing, center), with their outstanding academic achievements. Pictured are: David Oyler (standing, right) and (seated from left) Dr. Jeff Oyler, Coral Andrews, Julie Bradley and Dr. Richard Oyler.

Richard Oyler '82

is a physician and owner of Compass Urgent Care in Mobile.

Julie Bradley '86

is a math tutor in Baldwin County.

Coral Andrews '83

works in health care consulting in Hawaii.

Jeff Oyler '89,

MD '93 is an emergency physician in Atlanta.

David Oyler '89,

MS '91 works in cloud computing for Cisco in Raleigh, N.C.

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chapters and groups rally together for larger projects and individuals participate in smaller communities. Some projects are big, some are small, and together their impact is great.

For additional information regarding JaguarsCare National Day of Service, please contact Ailey Arrow Shirazi at 251.460.7259 or shirazi@southalabama.edu.



Mega Musical Chairs

MOBILE, AL

- 140 volunteers; 840 service hours
- JaguarsCare partnered with Alpha Epsilon Delta to engage students in the JaguarsCare project. More than 300 students, faculty, staff and alumni participated in a giant game of musical chairs. Each participant played for the charity of his or her choice. Winner Brea Potts garnered over \$5,000 for Camp Kesem.

3rd Annual
JaguarsCare National
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Economic impact of
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- 16 volunteers;
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Date: May 7-15, 2017

Price: From \$2,899 per person



Regal Routes of Northern Europe

Date: August 12-23, 2017

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Adriatic Rhapsody

Date: October 27-November 4, 2017

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Spotlight on New York City

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Price: From \$2,999 per person



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