

Midweek memo

Mark Your Calendar!
Spring General Faculty Meeting
 April 21, 3 p.m., Mitchell Center

A Message from President Moulton *University Economic Update*

As our nation weathers the global economic recession, the University of South Alabama, like its peers across the country, is being required to address the challenges brought about by the severe reductions in state funding.

USA is currently working to manage a state funding cut of \$28.8 million for this fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30. This represents a one-year reduction of 20.6 percent. Ironically, this decrease has come at a time when demand for USA's educational and health care services remains strong.

Our institutional response has required sacrifice, but has been effective. With your help, we have been able to address the majority of this year's cuts by holding positions vacant, reducing operating costs, using departmental reserves, and other measures. We have tightened our belts, and it has helped immensely. We have also benefited from steady enrollment growth and additional tuition revenue.

Thanks to these measures, it appears that USA will be able to complete the current fiscal year without the need for general layoffs, furloughs, salary decreases, or similar measures that have been employed by other universities across the nation. Of course, should we face an unexpected deeper downturn in the economy and further cuts, this issue would have to be revisited. Again, at this time the situation appears

stable for the remainder of this year.

So where do we go from here? The University continues to assess the economic outlook each day by gathering information, especially from Montgomery and Washington, D.C. Of course, there is much speculation about the direction of the economy. The reality is that we can't know for sure where the economy will be in six, nine, or 12 months. The prudent course, then, is to remain conservative in our spending and to maximize our revenues. As you know, funding for higher education in Alabama comes primarily from two highly recession-sensitive sources: sales taxes and income taxes. Two important unknown variables over the next two or three years will be the levels of state funding and the amount of assistance provided by federal economic stimulus legislation. We will continue watching the revenue picture closely so we can respond appropriately.

There are some good signs ahead. Students continue to come to USA in record numbers, and the enrollment picture for fall looks positive. The University has also benefited from diligent and sound financial management. Still, it remains uncertain when the economy will fully recover.

We all are inclined to try to make important decisions as soon as possible, and the University of South Alabama is committed to doing that.

However, we are in a circumstance where the passage of time and patience are essential ingredients for making rational decisions. Please trust that the University is reviewing the budget and the external environment every day, which will enable us to take the best and most prudent courses of action, at the appropriate time. As we move forward, some important truths are worth noting:

- First, and foremost, higher education and health care are "people" enterprises. The vast majority of USA's budget is personnel, and people are needed to deliver our services. While the recession has reduced demand in many industries of our society, the need for our services remains strong. Thus, USA's highest educational priority will continue to be maintaining an employment base to meet the needs of our educational and health care constituencies.

- Second, it is crucial that the University continues to function as normally as possible, with emphasis on building the future we desire for our institution and contributing to the economic health of the community. For example, several construction projects on campus are funded through revenues that can only be used for these purposes, such as federal grants, private donations, or bond issue proceeds. A decision to stop

these projects would not result in additional funding for operations and salaries, since the use of these funds is restricted. To maintain the momentum and progress of the University, I believe these projects should go forward as planned.

In truth, not even our nation's best economic minds know exactly when this recession will end. We do know, however, that it will end and times will get better. They always do. Meanwhile, the University of South Alabama remains vigilant to adapt to the circumstances with optimism, creativity, and strength.

I hope this letter has addressed some of your concerns. I look forward to sharing additional ideas with you regarding USA's financial outlook at the spring General Faculty meeting, set for **Tuesday, April 21, at 3 p.m., in the Mitchell Center**. Any staff who would like to attend are welcome, but please coordinate your attendance with your supervisor.

Thank you for your commitment to the University and the people it serves. I will continue to keep you updated on USA's economic outlook.





Ballet Donation for Infants — Mobile Ballet Inc. and its Nutcracker Charity Ball donated \$33,000 to the Hollis J. Wiseman Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at USA Children's and Women's Hospital during a recent ceremony at the Mobile Ballet Studio. The Nutcracker Charity Ball, a major fund-raiser for Mobile Ballet, has shared a significant portion of its proceeds with Mobile area children's charities since the ball's inception in 2003. At the check presentation were Becky Tate, chief executive officer of the Health Services Foundation and co-chair of the 2009 Nutcracker Charity Ball; Dr. Theresa Roca, president of the Mobile Ballet board; Pamela Thompson, 2008 Nutcracker Charity Ball chair; Dr. Becky DeVillier, USA Children's and Women's Hospital administrator; Geri Moulton; and Melanie Susman, co-chair of the 2009 Nutcracker Charity Ball.

USA to Host "Careers in Aging Day"

The USA Programs in Gerontology and the Student Government Association are sponsoring a "Careers in Aging Day" on Wednesday, April 15 from 9 a.m.-noon in the Student Center Ballroom. The event is free and open to the public, and USA students and faculty are encouraged to participate.

The purpose of the event is to introduce students to various paths leading to careers in aging and intergenerational relations. It is designed to promote interaction with agencies in the community that will employ USA graduates, as well as collaboration among various disciplines on campus that offer preparation in aging studies.

Local vendor displays at the event will allow students to become familiar with services that are provided to seniors and their families. This is not a job fair, rather an educational event.

The event also includes displays from College of Allied Health Professions departments in occupational therapy and speech pathology and audiology; the USA College of Medicine; the College of Nursing; and College of Arts of Sciences departments in sociology and psychology, among others.

Through the "Careers in Aging" event, USA students can learn more about academic opportunities from local, regional and national level internships, professional conference presentations, service-learning, and leadership training.

Free display space will be provided for USA academic departments interested in advertising their programs. Ideas and input are welcome from departments that want to participate. Faculty are also asked to encourage their students to take part in the event.

Pre-registration is required for attending groups. For more information, e-mail grn@usouthal.edu or call (251) 461-1623.



Honoring Mayor Jones — The Cottage Hill Civitan Club honored Mobile Mayor Sam Jones as the 2008 Mobilian of the Year at a recent banquet at the University's Mitchell Center. In addition to his other duties, Jones is a member of the University's board of trustees. As Mobile's most prestigious civic honor, the Mobilian of the Year award has been given annually since 1948 to an individual who has made an extraordinary, positive impact on the Mobile community.



Retiring from USA — Dr. Elwood “Woody” Hannum, right, associate dean of the School of Continuing Education and Special Programs, accepts congratulations on his retirement from Dr. Phillip Norris, director of the USA Baldwin County campus; Hannum’s daughter, Ari Moore; and his grandson, Allan. More than 75 people celebrated Hannum’s 39 years of service to the University during a reception held at the Terrace in the University Student Center.

Durant's Composition Performed in NYC



Dr. David Z. Durant

“Hazeur’s Curve,” a composition by Dr. David Z. Durant, an assistant professor in the department of music, was performed recently at the inaugural New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival and Conference hosted by Queen’s College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

The title is taken from a street by the same name in the Hillsdale Community.

The performance was on Friday, April 3, and on the following Sunday Durant was the pianist for



Research Forum — Dr. G. David Johnson, right, senior vice president for academic affairs, listens as Dr. James Connors Jr., assistant professor in the department of earth sciences, explains his poster presentation on “Groundwater Contaminant Remobilization by a Flood Event” during the 2009 Research Forum held recently in the University Student Center. This year’s forum included 52 displays from 21 academic departments.

“Vista for Solo Piano and Tape” at Stony Brook, State University of New York. This was Durant’s tenth performance of Vista since its

premiere in 2006. Last fall, Durant performed Vista at the International Computer Music Conference in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Durant joined the University faculty in August, 2003.



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA CAMPUS CALENDAR

Friday, April 10, 2009

The Online Learning Lab will hold a “Weekly OLL Workshop” to teach faculty how to capture screen shots and screen action videos from 10 a.m.-noon in Room 3302, College of Education. To sign up for the workshop, contact Gail McLean at (251) 380-2861 or e-mail gmclean@usouthal.edu.

The USA Jaguars Spring Football Game and unveiling of the team’s new uniforms begins at 5:30 p.m. in Ladd-Peebles Stadium. Gates will open at 4:30 p.m. Admission and parking are free. USA will be selling season tickets and football merchandise at the game. For more information about all Jaguar athletics, visit www.usajaguars.com. Season tickets for all Jaguar athletic events may be purchased by calling (251) 461-1872.

Monday, April 13, 2009

Summer and fall semester registration at the University begins. For more information on registration or readmission for former USA students, visit the USA Registrar’s Office online at www.southalabama.edu/registrar or call (251) 460-6251. New students interested in applying for admission to the University can get information by visiting the USA Office of Admissions online at www.southalabama.edu/admissions or call (251) 460-6141.

PETAL presents a “Teaching Diversity Roundtable” where faculty may share ideas on better ways to engage students at 2 p.m., Room 312, University Library. Register at www.southalabama.edu/petal/eventcalendar.html. For more information, contact Dr. Robert Gray at (251) 461-1563 or e-mail rmgray@usouthal.edu.

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

The University will host the Allied Health and Nursing Career Expo, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., in a tent on the grounds of USA’s Springhill Campus, 1504 Springhill Ave. The expo is open to alumni and students in health-related fields. Representatives from area health care agencies will be available to discuss career opportunities. The free event is hosted by the University’s Career Services Center, College of Allied Health Professions and the College of Nursing. For more information, contact the Career Services Center at (251) 460-6188 or visit www.southalabama.edu/careerservices.

Got Calendar Info?

E-mail items to midweekmemo@usouthal.edu

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

The Online Learning Lab will present a faculty workshop on creating a 3D virtual learning environment. “Using Virtual Learning Environment—Second Life” will be held 3-5 p.m. in Room 3302, College of Education. It will repeat on Friday, April 17, 10 a.m.-noon. To sign up for the workshop, call Gail McLean at (251) 380-2861 or e-mail gmclean@usouthal.edu.

Thursday, April 16, 2009

The USA Medical Center Auxiliary will sponsor a \$5 Jewelry and Accessory Sale in the hospital’s front lobby, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Repeats Friday, April 17. Cash, check and credit cards will be accepted. For more information, contact Volunteer Services at (251) 471-7265.

The department of interdisciplinary studies’ Adult Degree Program will host an information session at 6 p.m. in Room 104, Alpha Hall East Extension, for adults age 25 and older who are considering returning to college, beginning college or who may be interested in changing their major. Sessions will include an overview of the adult degree program as well as general information about the University. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP requested. For more information, contact Kimberly H. Davis at (251) 460-6263, e-mail kdhurst@usouthal.edu or visit www.southalabama.edu/ist.

Dr. Sue Walker, Stokes Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing, and Kathryn Seawell, art instructor at USA, will highlight National Library Week at USA with a pictorial presentation of their book, “Reuben’s Mobile,” at 7 p.m. in the University Library. Following the presentation, light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Rexann Warren at (251) 460-7021 or e-mail rwarren@usouthal.edu.

