USA Presents 2014 Howard F. Mahan Lecture

Dr. Patrick J. Maney

Dr. Patrick J. Maney, professor of history at Boston College, will deliver a lecture on former President Bill Clinton and his administration at the 2014 University of South Alabama Howard F. Mahan Lecture Series at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 26, in the Recital Hall of the John W. Laidlaw Performing Arts Center. Admission is free, and the event is open to the public.


He has received national attention for his books and articles with interviews on public television, C-SPAN, and National Public Radio. Maney has also reviewed books for The Washington Post, The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, Wisconsin Magazine of History and the American Historical Review.

Maney is currently a professor of modern American history with an emphasis on politics and the presidency, and he served as dean of the College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Boston College. In addition to teaching he is writing a book on the Clinton presidency.

In 2001, the Howard F. Mahan Lecture Series was created in honor of USA history department founder, the late Howard F. Mahan, who served as chair of the history department from 1964 until 1983. The lecture series was established in honor of Mahan's enduring contributions to his students, colleagues, community and state.

Each year, a prominent scholar visits USA to deliver a major address on a timely topic. The lecture series is co-sponsored by the USA Foundation.

USA Researcher Selected by Governor for Water Quality Research Testing Underway in West Virginia

West Virginia Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin has tapped a University of South Alabama environmental engineer to lead an independent review of drinking water quality following a chemical spill affecting about 300,000 people around that state's capital.

Dr. Andrew Whelton, assistant professor of environmental engineering, and Jeffrey Rosen of Corona Environmental Consulting, were selected to lead a team of scientists who will conduct the review.

"The governor's initial commitment of resources is an important first step to determining the long-term safety of tap water here in West Virginia," Whelton said. "I'm encouraged that support is being given to testing water in homes. It is crucial that we let science guide our work. The people of West Virginia deserve no less."

Whelton and several USA graduate students traveled to Charleston, W.Va., after several thousand gallons of 4-methylcyclohexane methanol (MCHM), used in coal processing, leaked into the Elk River upstream of the intake to a regional water utility treatment plant. The Jan. 9 leak was discovered after residents detected a licorice odor in their water, leading to a temporary use ban and uncertainty about water safety.

The USA researchers helped residents properly flush out their plumbing systems and began collecting data to try to determine what effect the contaminated water might have on plumbing systems and the water flowing through them. The results of those tests are pending.

Tomblin engaged Whelton to do testing on behalf of the state. A $650,000 commitment from Tomblin will allow Whelton and Rosen's team to:

- Launch an initial assessment for testing tap water in homes.
- Initiate an in-depth analysis to determine the odor threshold for MCHM.
- Establish an independent panel of experts to evaluate the safety factor for MCHM.

State and federal authorities have said that the water is safe to use and drink, and some testing has been done at fire hydrants and some public buildings.

Whelton has pushed for additional testing in homes. He specifically has been concerned that contaminated water stagnated in residential plastic pipes, and that those pipes may have absorbed some of the chemicals, affecting future water quality.

As part of his work for the state, Whelton is testing the water at 10 homes in nine counties. The testing will include samples from hot and cold faucets and multiple locations in each home. That will give researchers an assessment of the water quality in those 10 homes and provide the scientists a blueprint for how a larger-scale sampling might be conducted. Tomblin has asked for federal assistance for ongoing research, including additional testing.

Whelton recently was awarded funding by the National Science Foundation to help fund his research in West Virginia. A crowdfunding site has been set up at experiment.com/wvwatercrisis that allows people to give online.

Whelton said it will be important to continue to involve USA graduate students as the University prepares the next generation of scientists and engineers to help prevent and respond to similar crises.
Dr. Elizabeth Emery to Lecture at Social Sciences and Humanities Colloquium

Dr. Elizabeth Emery, professor of French at Montclair State University in New Jersey, will present two lectures at USA on March 10 for the Social Sciences and Humanities Colloquium, a lecture series in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Emery, who teaches medieval and 19th Century French literature and culture, will speak first at 3:30 p.m. in 19th Century European and America, early medieval art, architecture, and cultural studies, the reception and 19th Century French literature and culture, the department of foreign languages and literatures, at (251) 461-1456.

USA Medical Center Receives $300,000 Gift for Operating Rooms

The USA Medical Center has received a $300,000 gift from internationally recognized philanthropist Hansjoerg Wyss for a secondary heating and cooling unit and an emergency power generator for its operating rooms.

When the Medical Center was designed 50 years ago, a single air handling unit was designated to cover the operating rooms. With one unit controlling all nine rooms, it became difficult to perform even routine maintenance while maintaining the desired environment inside the room.

Along with the second unit, the gift will cover an emergency power generator, since the existing ones do not have the capacity to add additional power loads.

“It’s through this generous gift, we are able to provide a better environment for our patients, operating room staff and physicians,” Medical Center Administrator Beth Anderson said. “USA Medical Center is grateful for the support of Hansjoerg Wyss and the HJW Foundation.”

A native of Switzerland, Wyss founded a successful medical research and design company headquartered in West Chester, Penn. The company’s products have helped millions of patients recover from skeletal and soft tissue trauma injuries.

In 2012, Wyss’ HJW Foundation gave the Medical Center $150,000 to update the operating rooms.

Eddie Curran

Curran Donates Siegelman Research Papers to Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library

The University’s Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library has received the research papers collected and produced by former Mobile Press-Register reporter Eddie Curran in his coverage of former Alabama Gov. Don Siegelman.

The collection at the USA archives library includes public records and other materials Curran gathered when covering the Siegelman administration and preparing his book, “The Governor of Goat Hill.”

The collection—20,000 pages of stories, notes, e-mails and records—is now available for review and research at the Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library at USA’s Springhill Campus.

“Having Eddie Curran’s collection of research papers in McCall Library will help journalism students and other researchers begin to understand what an author of a biography such as his must go through in terms of collecting research material, writing and producing a finished story,” said Dr. Richard Wood, dean of University libraries.

Curran said he donated his records to USA because both he and Siegelman are Mobile natives and because he believes his papers have value for anyone seeking to understand Siegelman and Alabama politics during the 1990s and early 2000s.

“I like to think that the collection will also attract people interested in journalism. That, to me, is the real value of these records, and the reason I wrote a book on Siegelman,” Curran said. “To me it’s a journalism story. This collection, like my book, shows the extraordinary amount of work, and the type of work, that goes into producing the types of stories we produced.”

“I’m grateful that USA archives the collection has value and will make it available in ways I never could.” Curran published his book in 2010. The collection received by the McCall Library contains biographical material on Siegelman, as well as material related to his political career and policies. However, Curran cautioned that his papers don’t tell or seek to tell the entire story of the former governor or his administration.

Siegelman served one term as governor, from 1999 to 2003. He was investigated and later convicted on corruption charges in federal court. Curran’s book is a critical look at the administration and some of the deals that brought sharp focus on Siegelman. The former governor has maintained his innocence.

The McCall Library’s director, Carol Ellis, noted that with the addition of the Curran papers, “the library’s collection of political-based collections is that much richer. We already hold the papers on former Mobile Mayor Lambert Mims, former state legislator Maurice Downing, and former U.S. Congressmen Jack Edwards, Sonny Callahan and Jo Bonner.”

To view or use the collection, contact the McCall Library at (251) 434-3800.

Calendar of Events

Send USA Campus Calendar Events Today

Items may be submitted to the calendar the following ways:

• E-mail items to midweekmemo@southalabama.edu and pubrel@southalabama.edu

• Fax to the Office of Public Relations at 460-7827

• Mail to the Office of Public Relations in Room 240, Administration Building

• Use the submission form on the calendar page Web site

You can access the calendar at www.southalabama.edu/usacal/campuscalendar
“I’m feeling stronger each day!
Thanks USA Health System!”

“On February 26, 2010, I was hit head on by a drunk driver, and the accident left me severely injured. My leg was forced eight inches into my back, my arm was crushed and I had a severe chest injury. When I was cut from the car, the nerves to my foot were severed.

I was airlifted to the USA Medical Center, where I spent the next eight weeks.

Little by little, the doctors at USA performed surgeries to allow me to function like I used to prior to my accident. I am extremely grateful to them for allowing me to be who I was before.”

Vicki Horn Gray
Mobile, AL
USA Medical Center Launches Recycling Program

A hospital-wide recycling program has been launched at the USA Medical Center. The recycling program is part of a new agreement with waste management company Stericycle. The hospital already had an agreement with the company to handle medical waste but expanded it in September 2012 to include pharmaceutical waste, recycling and management of the hospital’s municipal waste contract.

In order to implement the recycling component, significant modifications had to be made to the physical plant at USA Medical Center to accommodate a new 34-yard recycling compactor.

Phase one of the program began with the placement of blue recycling cans in 35 locations at USA Medical Center. Representatives from each department were enlisted to learn about the program and encourage participation.

The contents of these blue cans end up in the compactor, which is specifically designed for recyclable waste. When it is full, Stericycle removes the compactor and separates it into individual waste components. The first load in October collected 12,560 pounds of paper, cardboard, plastic, aluminum and glass from the Medical Center.

Stericycle and the hospital share any returns on the recycling 50-50, yet it is not a moneymaking venture, according to Michael Peterson, director of environmental services.

“Essentially, the recycling program diverts a percentage of our waste from the municipal waste system, which saves the hospital money,” he said.

For the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2013, the Medical Center disposed of 1,806,077 pounds of waste. Of that amount, 303,518 pounds, or 18.25 percent, came from existing and new recycling programs. That exceeds the industry standard of 15 percent.

The next phase of the recycling program, due to begin this year, will place the blue cans in more locations throughout the hospital.

Got Calendar Info?
E-mail items to midweekmemo@southalabama.edu

Thursday, February 20, 2014

The inaugural meeting of the USA Applied Statistics Forum will be held 3-5 p.m. at the Faculty Club. Dr. Stephen Costanza, assistant professor of political science and criminal justice, will present “Identifying and Dealing with Spatial Autocorrelation.” Costanza studied with Luc Anselin, creator of Stat and Geoda, at the University of Michigan ICPSR Summer Program. He has published research using spatial analyses in “Crime Mapping,” “Police Quarterly,” and the “Journal of Crime and Justice.” For more information, call Dr. Kimberly Littlefield, assistant vice president for research development and learning, at (251) 460-6628, or e-mail klittlefield@southalabama.edu.

Friday, February 21, 2014

The USA Cheerleaders will host a Cheer Clinic, 5-7:30 p.m., for children ages 5-14 interested in learning the University’s cheers and band dances. It will be held in the Striplin Practice Facility, located in the Health, Physical Education and Leisure Sciences Building east of the Mitchell Center. All participants will be invited to join the USA Cheerleaders on the court at the Mitchell Center to perform in the half-time basketball show on Saturday, Feb. 22, as the Jaguars play the Troy State Trojans at 7 p.m. Participants must register no later than Wednesday, Feb. 19. No registration will be taken at the door. Registration forms and all other information are at www.usajaguars.com under the cheerleading link. Registration forms may be mailed, faxed, e-mailed, or delivered to ensure the registration deadline is met. The $30 registration fee will be accepted the day of the clinic by cash or check payable to JAF CHEER. For more information, call Bre Kucera, head coach of cheerleading, at (251) 460-6268.

Summer/Fall Textbook Request Forms are due no later than today to the USA Bookstore. Timely submission of the request forms helps the bookstore comply with the new federal guidelines set forth by the Higher Education Opportunity Act. The Textbook Request Form and Course Pack Request Form are available at www.southalabama.edu. Select “campus store,” then select either form. After completion, four copies of the request form must be submitted to the USA Bookstore. These four copies may be sent by campus mail or delivered to the bookstore. Faxed copies will not be accepted. For more information, call (251) 460-6951, or e-mail lhigdon@southalabama.edu.

Sunday, February 23, 2014

The 5K Trail Run, sponsored by the USA volleyball team, will be held 7:30-10 a.m. at the Glenn Sebastian Nature Trail. The fun event is open to the community. Registration may be completed in advance or on the day of the event. For more information, call Shawn Taylor at (251) 460-7372, or e-mail staylor@southalabama.edu.

Monday, February 24, 2014

The USA Symphony Band and Wind Ensemble will present a joint concert beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Recital Hall of the Laidlaw Performing Arts Center. The Symphony Band, conducted by Associate Director of Bands Dr. William Petersen, will begin the concert with Jack Stamp’s exciting fanfare “Cenotaph.” The Wind Ensemble, conducted by Department of Music Chair Dr. Greg Gruner and Petersen will open the second half of the program with Kevin Puts’ “Millennium Canons,” written in 2001 for the Boston Pops Orchestra. Tickets for this Musical Arts Series will be sold at the door only. General admission will be $8. Admission for University faculty, staff and students, youths under age 18 and all senior citizens will be $5. Only cash or checks will be accepted. For more information about the event, or to arrange for special accommodations, call (251) 460-7116 or (251) 460-6136.

Tuesday, February 25, 2014

Internationally known glass artist Stephen Rolfe Powell, the H.W. Stodghill Jr. and Adele H. Stodghill Professor of Art at Centre College in Kentucky, will lecture at 2:15 p.m. in the auditorium of the USA Marx Library. He will demonstrate glass blowing at 3:30 p.m. in the Glass Arts Building. Powell’s visit is sponsored by the glass program in the department of visual arts. The event is open to the University community. For more information, call Rene Culler, assistant professor of visual arts and coordinator of the glass program, at (251) 461-1368.