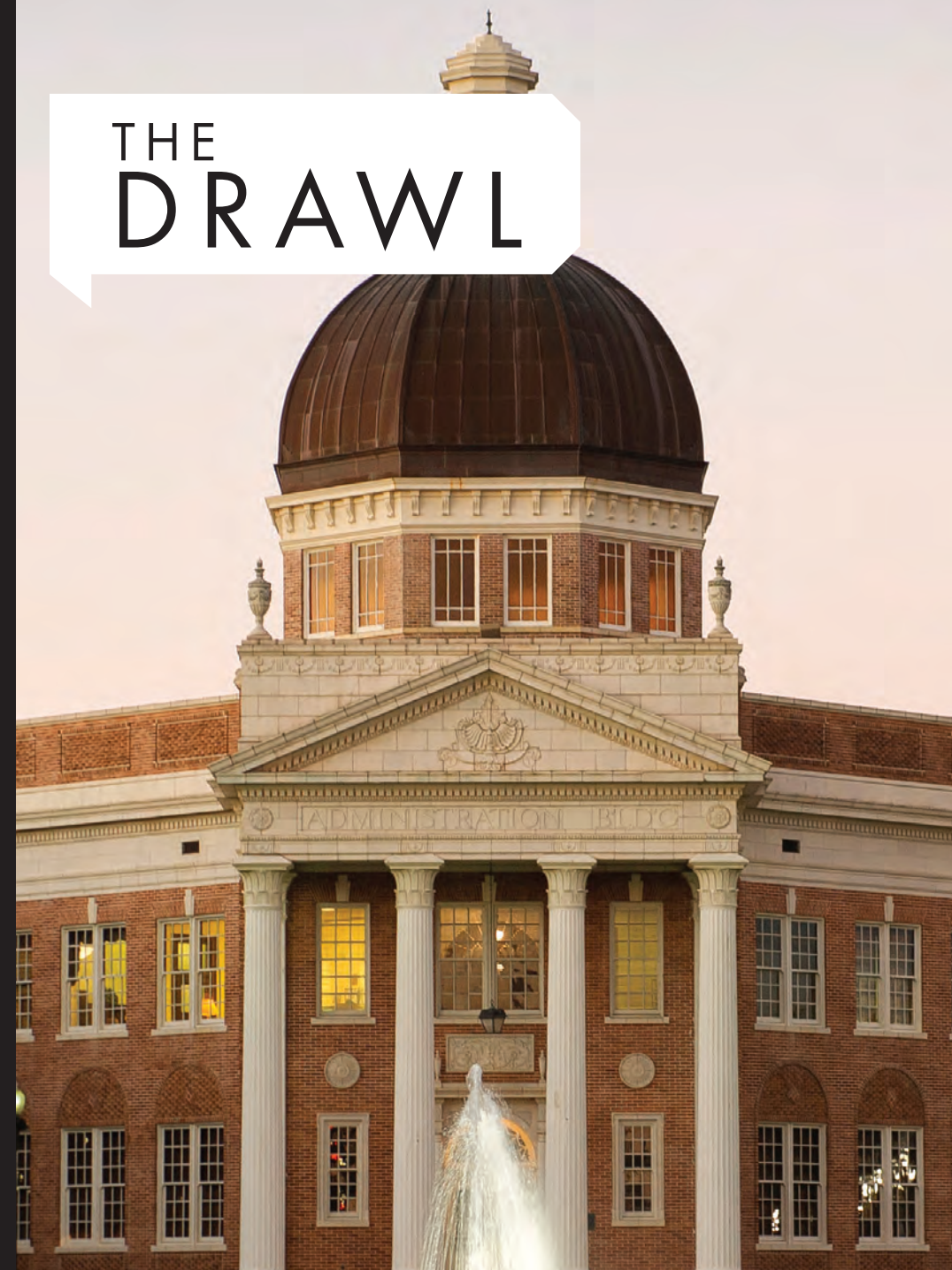


# THE DRAWL



THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
118 COLLEGE DRIVE #5013  
HATTIESBURG, MS 39406  
601.266.5013  
ALUMNI@USM.EDU  
SOUTHERNMISSALUMNI.COM



THE HISTORY AND TRADITIONS HANDBOOK OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI



**Congratulations!** You are now part of a history and tradition that is known as The University of Southern Mississippi. With 100-plus years of educating students, approximately 14,500 current students, 2,100 full-time faculty and staff, and 130,000 alumni from campuses in Hattiesburg and on the Gulf Coast, the University is something more than special.

You are responsible for carrying on this tradition. The purpose of this manual is to give you the opportunity to learn about Southern Miss' history and traditions so you can be aware of our proud past and play a significant role in helping take Southern Miss to the top!

The defining characteristics of Southern Miss are her Southern charm and friendliness. In the 1963-64 edition of *The Drawl*, the student handbook of the time, Dr. William D. McCain, fifth president of The University of Southern Mississippi, wrote the following:

*The warmth of the friendly spirit on the campus of The University of Southern Mississippi rivals that of the September sun. This warmth of friendliness grows out of the fact that here at Southern, we all "belong," and you will feel it because now that you have joined us, you "belong" too. It grows also out of the individual friendliness that you will see and hear in the friendly smiles and pert "hellos" you exchange as you go about the campus. Among Southerners, introductions are not necessary—everybody speaks!*

It was true in the 1960s, and it is true today. We hope you already know this and are living it in your life as a Golden Eagle.

This is your manual. Make good use of it. We encourage you to regularly practice the Southern Miss traditions included for many years to come. Good luck in your journey as a Golden Eagle, and make the best of it.

**Southern Miss to the Top!**

**Jerry B. DeFatta Jr.**  
Executive Director



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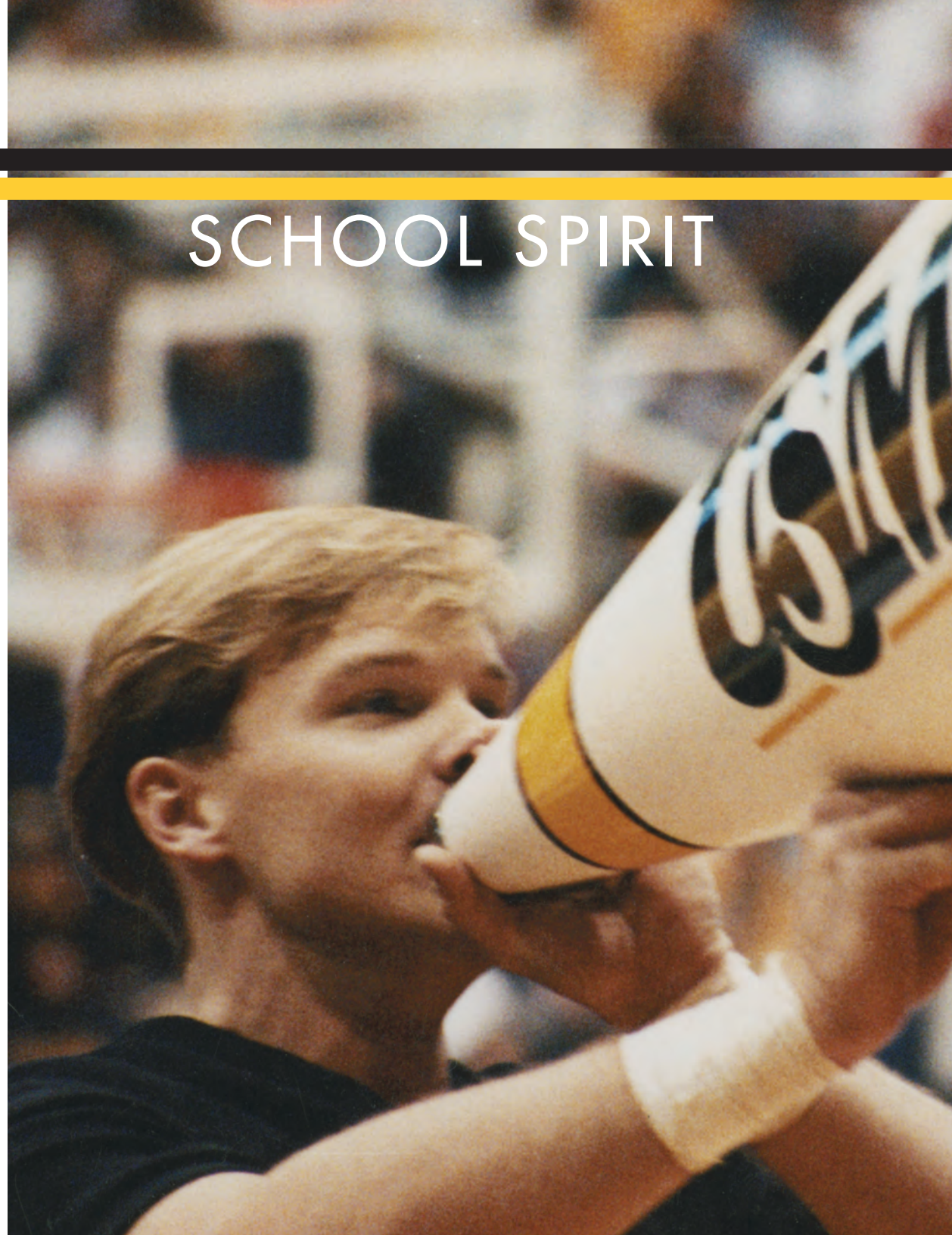
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# SCHOOL SPIRIT



## ○ WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A GOLDEN EAGLE

Golden Eagle Code of Honor: The 1913-14 Mississippi Normal College Bulletin states that, “The general rule of the college is for each boy and girl to do the right thing.” It further states, “As long as students respect the rights of their fellow students and the wishes of the president and faculty, they will not be harassed and made uncomfortable by rules and regulations.” President Joe Cook’s personal motto was, “Get there on time and stay to the end,” which pretty much became the campus slogan during his tenure.

When the Student Government Association (SGA) was formed on October 8, 1912, it adopted the motto, “Every man a gentleman and every woman a lady.” Observation of the SGA motto was all that was expected of any student. The school colors, black and gold, were chosen in 1912. Bearing these things in mind, the Golden Eagle Code of Honor can be stated as follows:

### A GOLDEN EAGLE

- always does the right thing
- is punctual and respectful (gets there on time and stays to the end)
- is always a lady or a gentleman
- is true to the Black and Gold

Part of being a Golden Eagle is participating in the Southern Miss Alumni Association. The organization was founded May 4, 1917, and its first president was T.A. Sewell, a 1917 graduate of Mississippi Normal College. The primary objectives of the Alumni Association are to maintain contact with former students, to be of service to former students and to support and serve the entire school.

## ○ ALMA MATER

In 1941, when The University of Southern Mississippi was known as Mississippi Southern College, Yvonne Hamilton '43 and Clara Davenport '42 wrote the lyrics for the school's alma mater. Mary Leila Gardner arranged the conductor's score. In 1963, the alma mater was retooled, with changes made to the first verse and Luigi Zaninelli arranging the current score. The alma mater is played before every Southern Miss academic and athletic event. The alma mater is as follows:

*We sing to thee our alma mater,  
USM thy praises be:  
Southern mem'ries we shall cherish,  
Loyalty we pledge to thee.*

*Spacious skies and land of sunshine,  
Verdant trees and shelt'ring walls,  
Now our hearts lift ever to thee,  
As we praise thy hallowed halls.*

## ○ MOTTO

The University's motto “Southern Miss to the Top!” represents a common sentiment among the Southern Miss faithful. The phrase represents our desire for the best for the University constituency, whether in the classroom, on the playing field or in the community.

## ○ CREED

The Southern Miss creed is a set of beliefs that all Golden Eagles cherish. It was adopted by the Student Government Association on May 12, 1958, and according to the minutes of that meeting, it was Senate Bill #9-S-58: A Bill to Establish a Creed for Mississippi Southern College. The only bill on the calendar that day, it was passed by a unanimous vote. The creed debuted in the May 16, 1958, issue of *The Student Printz*, where it was printed in its entirety.

*I belong to a community of scholars at The University of Southern Mississippi.*

*I will demonstrate integrity and determination in all academic pursuits.*

*I will appreciate the value of differences among people,  
customs and view points and oppose hatred, bigotry and bias toward others.*

*I will exhibit behavior and choose language that demonstrates respect  
for fellow members of the Southern Miss community.*

*I will respect others by honoring their rights, privacy and belongings.*

*I will value human dignity in my academic, social and employment settings.*

*I commit to exhibiting civil behavior, demonstrating responsible citizenry and doing  
my part to achieve a positive and secure living and learning environment for all!*





## ○ UNIVERSITY SEAL

Existing records indicate the University's first seal was created shortly after the school's name was changed from Mississippi Normal College to Mississippi State Teachers College (ca. 1924-26). The seal was modeled after the seal of the state of Mississippi, featuring an eagle with wings outspread, holding a palm branch in the right talon and a bundle of arrows in the left.

When the school's name changed to Mississippi Southern College in 1940, the seal was modified to reflect the new name, and the image of the eagle was altered as well.

Changing the school's name to The University of Southern Mississippi in 1962 necessitated yet another change in the seal, and again, the eagle's image was altered. This seal remained in use until January 1997 when an entirely new seal was implemented.

The current University seal features an image of the dome of the Aubrey K. Lucas Administration Building with the date 1910 (the year our University was founded) inscribed below it. The image is surrounded by a circle containing the words "The University of Southern Mississippi."



## ○ FIGHT SONG

Originally called "Southern to the Top!" the University's fight song was penned in 1955 by Robert Hays, assistant director of The Pride of Mississippi Marching Band. Hays wrote the song as a closer for the first act of *Hey Daze*, a three-act musical based on student life at Mississippi Southern College. The song became so popular that it has been echoed at athletic contests for more than six decades.

The University's fight song was eventually renamed "Southern Miss to the Top!" to reflect the University's popular nickname, Southern Miss. "Southern Miss to the Top!" is played each time Southern Miss scores a touchdown in football. It is also an instrumental aspect of any Southern Miss athletic or academic event.

*Southern Mississippi to the top! to the top,  
So lift your voices high, show them the reason why,  
That Southern spirit never will stop.  
Fight! Fight! Fight!  
Southern Mississippi all the way, banners high,  
And we will Fight! Fight! Fight! to victory,  
Hear our battle cry!*

## ○ CHEERS

### SOUTHERN MISS TO THE TOP! RESPONSE CHEER

SIGNAL - "SOUTHERN MISS!"  
RESPONSE - "TO THE TOP!"

The Southern Miss response cheer is used among Southern Miss alumni, students and supporters. The initiator of the cheer says, "Southern Miss!" The responder says, "to the top!" Hand signals accompany the cheer, which are two gestures upward with the index finger, done by both the initiator and responder.

The Southern Miss response cheer is specifically used during Southern Miss football games when the Golden Eagles make a first down. The cheer is also encouraged as a greeting and to celebrate or recognize Southern Miss accomplishments and is an opener and closer in Southern Miss events.

### SOUTHERN MISS SHOUT OUT

"S-OU-THERN - SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI - USM!"

The Southern Miss shout out is perhaps the most recognized cheer associated with the University. It is with little doubt the most effective "social gathering" cheer and is used to intimidate opposing fans and to drum out cheers of other universities. There is never an inappropriate time or place to let loose, "S-OU-THERN - Southern Mississippi - USM!"



## ○ NASTY BUNCH

"NASTY BUNCH! NASTY BUNCH! NASTY BUNCH!"

The Nasty Bunch is the name of the football team's defense, and it is also the team's defensive cheer. It is used each time Southern Miss holds an opposing offense on third down or when the Nasty Bunch makes a significant defensive play, which is often.

## ○ ARE YOU FROM DIXIE?

"Are You from Dixie?" is played after every extra point scored during a Southern Miss football game. It is also the official song of the Dixie Darlings.

*Are you from Dixie? I said from Dixie!*

*Where the fields of cotton beckon to me.*

*I'm glad to see you, tell me how be you*

*and the friends I'm longing to see.*

*If you're from Alabama, Tennessee or Caroline*

*any place below the Mason Dixon Line,*

*then you're from Dixie, hurray for Dixie!*

*'Cause I'm from Dixie too!*

## DID YOU KNOW?

### PAT WAGGONER

Did you know that as a 1979 Southern Miss graduate, Mr. Waggoner loved nothing more than watching his beloved Golden Eagles baseball team under the sunny skies at Pete Taylor Park? Even though he died in an automobile accident on December 18, 1998, he continues to spend his days in "The Pete." A letter attached to his will requested that he be cremated and his ashes sprinkled at spots near and dear to his heart: Lot 16 in the Right Field Roost at Pete Taylor Park and the Number 1 tee box at the 18th green at Van Hook Golf Course. His wishes were honored, and the ceremony took place January 16, 1999.



## ○ SOUTHERN MISS CALLS TO ACTION

### FOOTBALL

Southern Miss Pregame: Crowd is instructed to stand and sing the Southern Miss alma mater and fight song and to participate in pregame cheers led by The Pride of Mississippi.

Southern Miss Kickoff: Crowd is instructed to stand to participate in the kickoff cheer, "Go Eagles! USM!"

Southern Miss Touchdown: Crowd is instructed to stand and sing "Southern Miss to the Top!"

Southern Miss Defensive Stop: Crowd is instructed to stand and participate in the "Nasty Bunch" cheer.

Southern Miss First Down: Crowd is to participate in the "Southern Miss to the Top!" response cheer, which will be led by The Pride of Mississippi, Southern Miss cheerleaders and the Southern Miss announcer.

Southern Miss Shout Out: Initiated by The Pride of Mississippi; when started, crowd is instructed to stand and participate in the cheer.

Fifth Quarter Concert: Crowd is invited to stay immediately after the game to show appreciation to the Southern Miss football team while The Pride of Mississippi gives its end-of-game performance. The football team and the cheerleaders locate to the South End Zone while the alma mater is played.

### BASKETBALL

First Shot: Crowd is instructed to stand until the first Southern Miss shot is made.

Free Throws: Crowd is instructed to raise their hands above their heads, and when the free throw is made, the hands drop and the crowd makes a "whoosh" sound.

Southern Miss Shout Out: Initiated by the Southern Miss pep band; when started, crowd is instructed to stand and participate in the cheer.



### BASEBALL, SOFTBALL AND OLYMPIC SPORTS

Southern Miss Shout Out: Initiated by any Southern Miss fan during games; when started, crowd is instructed to stand and participate in the cheer.

"Southern Miss to the Top!" Response Cheer: Initiated by any Southern Miss fan during games; when started, crowd is instructed to stand and participate in the cheer.

## ORIGIN OF SCHOOL COLORS

Black and gold have been Southern Miss' colors since the beginning, thanks to Florence Burrow Pope who, with her husband Moran, was in the school's first class in 1912. In an oral history recorded by former University President William D. McCain in 1965, Mrs. Pope told of being the senior class sponsor at Carson School during the 1910-11 school year when her classmates were arguing about selection of the class colors.

"On a trip home, I saw great masses of Black-Eyed Susans in the pine forests. I decided to encourage my senior class to gather Black-Eyed Susans to spell out the name of the class on sheets to be displayed during exercises on Class Day. I then suggested black and gold as class colors, and my suggestion was adopted.

'One of the teachers at Carson, Miss Edna Burns, then bought black and gold hatbands in Jackson for the two boys in the senior class, Charlie Laird and Moran M. Pope.'

On August 4, 1912, Florence Burrow and Moran M. Pope were married, and the next month they entered Mississippi Normal College in its first class. She recalled that Pope "wore his straw hat to Mississippi Normal College, and students laughed at his black and gold hatband."

Soon after school opened, a committee was appointed to make recommendations concerning school colors. Florence was on the committee: "We were charged with selecting colors, which no other college in Mississippi had adopted," she said. "Marye Miller suggested that the colors be maroon and gray. I suggested that they be black and gold. The two suggestions were submitted to the student body, and the student body voted to have black and gold as the school colors."

Since that day, mascots, names, customs and the campus have changed, but black and gold have remained the school's colors.



## EVOLUTION OF THE SOUTHERN MISS MASCOT

Over the years, Southern Miss has experienced an evolution of mascots. The earliest nickname for the University's athletic teams was Tigers, but early teams were also referred to as Normalites. Then, in 1924, our teams' name was changed to Yellow Jackets.

When the school was renamed Mississippi Southern College in 1940, a name change for the athletic teams was fitting. In April 1940, the student body voted to name the teams Confederates. The teams were called the Confederates during fall 1940 and spring 1941. In September 1941, Confederates was dropped, and the teams were named Southerners.



Several years later, in 1953, General Nat (for Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest) was approved as the Southerners' mascot. The first General Nat was Archie Hughes, and Nat's horse was named Son of Dixie."

In 1972, alumni, faculty, students and staff were asked to submit new names for the athletic teams, and an ad hoc committee appointed by the Alumni Association voted on the submissions. Our present mascot, the Golden Eagles, was chosen as the athletic teams' name, and the new mascot was Seymour, an individual in a Golden Eagle costume. (Several students usually share the responsibility of portraying Seymour.)

Seymour's full name is Seymour d'Campus. The name was inspired by the 1984 World's Fair mascot, Seymour d'Fair, who was played by former Southern Miss mascot Jeff Davis '83.

Golden Eagles was chosen over Raiders, War Lords, Timber Wolves and Southerners.

The first live Golden Eagle mascot, Nugget, was obtained in 1980 and in 1986, was replaced by Nugget II. Nugget II died in 1992. However, Seymour continues to entertain fans at Golden Eagles athletic events.

## NUGGET AND TALON

An effort to bring a golden eagle back to Hattiesburg was initiated by the Southern Miss Alumni Association and was supported by the Student Government Association and USM Foundation. Together, the groups contributed approximately \$70,000 in 2013 to fund the construction of a habitat at the Hattiesburg Zoo for the golden eagle. The bird, named "Nugget" by the zoo's staff, was permitted to the zoo after a rigorous application process through the U.S. Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Less than three months after unveiling the golden eagle exhibit, the Hattiesburg Zoo welcomed "Talon," a second golden eagle on loan from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services. The exhibit at the Hattiesburg Zoo will continue to provide future Southern Miss alumni, students and legacies with an opportunity to learn about golden eagles.





## ○ THE PRIDE OF MISSISSIPPI MARCHING BAND

Since its founding in 1920 as a 20-piece brass ensemble, the Pride of Mississippi has evolved into an impressive and highly respected marching band. Having marched for such events as the FDR Inaugural Parade, the Chicago World's Fair, the Senior Bowl Classic football games, the Blue and Gray game, and professional football games, The Pride was one of the most televised bands in the South during the 1970s and '80s.

Unlike most bands of previous days, The Pride was not limited to a common instrumentation of brasses and woodwinds. The band was disbanded in 1942 because of the war, but it reassembled in 1946. In the 1950s, the band was accompanied by a bag pipe ensemble, along with the Southern Belles dance/drill team, who became the Dixie Darlings in 1954.

Regarded throughout the nation as one of the finest university marching bands, The Pride has received invitations to perform in Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, Green Bay, Wisc., and Mississippi for competitive band concerts, festivals and professional football games.

In 2010, with more than 3.5 million television viewers worldwide, The Pride, along with the Dixie Darlings, made their debut appearance in New York City at the 84th Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Most recently, The Pride marched in an international performance in Dublin, Ireland for the Saint Patrick's Day celebration in 2015.

Though many years have passed since the first performance in 1923, the same excitement and tradition of musical excellence has been upheld today.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that throughout the late 1950s and early 1960s The Pride of Mississippi Marching Band wore red uniforms? Selected by band director, Dr. Raymond Mannoni, the red uniforms were selected to honor the Scottish heritage of University President Dr. William McCain.

## ○ DIXIE DARLINGS

In 1952, President R.C. Cook recruited Raymond Mannoni from the University of Topeka as band director and told him to build a good band with lots of majorettes. As a result, the band increased in size, and the precision dance twirl team, the Dixie Darlings, was formed. In January 1954, Dr. Mannoni observed a young woman named Joyce Scimeca (now Joyce McHenry) performing at the Senior Bowl in Mobile, Ala. Joyce was a member of the Rangerettes, a precision dance team at Kilgore College in Kilgore, Texas. In June 1954, Dr. Mannoni contacted Joyce and asked if she would like to come to then Mississippi Southern College and help begin a dance team similar to the Rangerettes. After auditioning for Dr. Mannoni, Joyce was offered a full scholarship.

Shortly after practice sessions for the group began, Dr. Mannoni called the girls together and asked them to suggest a name for the new group. Dixie Dancers was suggested by one member, and Joyce Scimeca suggested Dixie Darlings. The DD's original uniform was a black velvet top and shorts. The top featured a gold braid over a scooped neck, and a gold tassel adorned each side of the shorts. The girls wore white gloves and white boots with black fringe.

Since their inception nearly half a century ago, the Dixie Darlings have represented the spirit and tradition of Southern Miss athletics.





## ○ SOUTHERN MISS CHEERLEADERS

For decades, the Southern Miss cheerleaders have been one of the most recognizable campus organizations. The squad consists of about 40 men and women who act as ambassadors for their University locally and nationally. Throughout the years, the cheerleaders have qualified to compete at the national competition, placing as high as ninth in the nation in 2007, and fourth in the nation in 2016.

Constantly in the public eye, whether at football games; volleyball matches; men's and women's basketball games; alumni, civic or charitable events, this squad of enthusiastic co-eds enhances the atmosphere wherever they are. Whether at The Rock or in The Greenhouse, the cheerleaders are certain to generate crowd enthusiasm among the Southern Miss faithful on game day and cheer their team to victory.



## ○ SOUTHERN MISSES

The Southern Misses dance team, formerly the Pom Pom Girls, generate excitement at men's and women's basketball games. This ensemble of talented women perform at every home basketball game, including performing a choreographed dance routine for fans' halftime entertainment. At home or on the road, at competitions or athletic events, the Southern Misses proudly represent the University and its athletic traditions.

## ○ EAGLE FEVER

In the early 1980s, Southern Miss standout Reggie Collier helped lead the nationally ranked Golden Eagles football team to unparalleled heights. Victories over in-state opponents, University of Mississippi and Mississippi State, were commonplace, and wins over such squads as Florida State and Alabama helped spread the school's name across the country; but no place felt the energy more than the City of Hattiesburg. There was a heightened sense of excitement around town and on campus, and to take the excitement a step further, University Relations staff members, Bud Kirkpatrick, Terry Bethea and Sissy Myrick, labeled the community's spirit "Eagle Fever." They created a logo and set about promoting the phenomenon. Yards and yards of Eagle Fever posters were printed, and on game days, these posters could be found on everything from campus building to bridge trusses.





## ○ OVER 100 YEARS OF SOUTHERN MISS ATHLETICS

Sports have been an important part of Southern Miss from the day the institution opened its doors to students in 1912. In the University's first year of existence, football, men's and women's basketball, track, and baseball were instituted. By 1915, a tennis team had been added.

The Department of Athletics, has worked to become one of the premier athletic programs in the nation. A member of Conference USA, Southern Miss fields successful teams in 14 varsity athletic sports. In 2012, the University celebrated 100 years of athletics at Southern Miss.



# TRADITIONS



## ○ TRADITIONS RESOLUTION

The traditions of The University of Southern Mississippi are deeply treasured. The Alumni Association, in conjunction with the Student Alumni Association, take a lead role in promoting and advancing these customs, ceremonies and celebrations of Southern Miss.

The University's traditions are protected by a resolution, signed in 2007 by University President Dr. Martha Saunders and Alumni Association President Lou Ann Poynter. The resolution establishes the Association's Traditions Committee as a clearinghouse for proposed additions, deletions or alterations to the University's recognized traditions and can be found online at [SouthernMissAlumni.com](http://SouthernMissAlumni.com).

Traditions are meant to be as celebrated and cherished as our beloved institution itself. The Alumni Association and the Student Alumni Association invite alumni, friends, students, faculty, staff and fans of the Golden Eagles to regularly take part in the traditions of the University.

## ○ FOUNDERS' DAY

March 30, 1910, is the institution's official birthday, and in 1955, the Alumni Association designated March 30 as Mississippi Southern College Day. The day was to be observed wherever former students resided, and its purpose was "to build up a little more custom and tradition concerning the college." The day, since re-named Founders' Day, has been observed in some fashion ever since, and now includes a State of the University Address by the institution's President.



## ○ RIGHT FIELD ROOST

During baseball season, game-day festivities take place in Pete Taylor Park's Right Field Roost. This tailgating area is along the right side of the field and extends into right field. Fans enjoy the excitement that only watching the game from the "roost" can bring.

## ○ HOMECOMING

Each fall, Southern Miss holds its Homecoming Weekend. Festivities begin as early as Monday and continue through Sunday evening. All areas of campus get involved. The Southern Miss Alumni Annual Golf Tournament, Alumni Hall of Fame Banquet, Homecoming Parade, the Association's Annual Awards Ceremony and Business Meeting, concerts, reunions, tailgating and a pep rally are just some of the events happening around the Saturday football game.



## ○ EAGLE FEST

Eagle Fest is an annual event held each spring as a second homecoming for past, present and potential Golden Eagles alike. Student representatives are on hand to introduce their organizations to prospective students and their parents. Tours of the campus are given, the Golden Eagles baseball team hosts a weekend series and the football team hosts the Black and Gold game. The Black and Gold game is the first chance fans have to see the team in action for the upcoming fall season.

## ○ TAILGATING

Tailgating is an opportunity for alumni and friends—both new and old—to gather before and after a Southern Miss athletic event. Starting with Friday Night at the Fountain, fans flock to The District, Danforth Chapel, Centennial Green and Spirit Park with black and gold flags, tents, barbecue grills, and music.



Two hours before kickoff, a blast from a cannon signals the beginning of Eagle Walk. Fans line the streets surrounding the stadium as Seymour, The Pride of Mississippi Marching Band, Dixie Darlings, cheerleaders and the football team march from the Aubrey K. Lucas Administration Building to The Rock.

## ○ THE DISTRICT

Located in front of the Ogletree Alumni House, the campus historical District has acted as a gathering place for Southern Miss students and alumni since the founding of the University. During football season, The District becomes a hotbed of activity as students, alumni and friends of Southern Miss gather to tailgate before each home game. Tents are set up, and by game day, The District transforms into a sea of Southern Miss fans.



More than a tailgating spot, the area also offers visitors an opportunity to take a walk in the All-American Rose Garden during the day, to see the illuminated dome at night and to enjoy the Black-Eyed Susans in the spring. This historic part of campus is also a tangible reminder of Southern Miss' heritage. It is where one can most closely feel the spirit of the University; it is a builder of loyalty and admiration.



## ○ **FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE FOUNTAIN**

Friday Night at the Fountain is a tradition-rich, family-friendly celebration that serves as the official start of the thrill and excitement that is tailgating and game-day activities during football weekends at Southern Miss. The festivities include performances by The Pride of Mississippi Marching Band, the Dixie Darlings, the Southern Miss Cheerleaders and the Southern Misses, as well as appearances by Seymour, athletic coaches and players. Coordinated by the Southern Miss Activities Council and the Student Alumni Association, this event is well-attended by Southern Miss students, alumni, fans and friends.

## ○ **SEYMOUR'S SIDEKICKS SPIRIT LINE**

The Seymour's Sidekicks Spirit Line is one of the many exciting activities for children and families associated with Southern Miss football games. The activity encourages children, specifically members of Seymour's Sidekicks, to form a human tunnel of spirit and support that welcomes the Golden Eagles football team back to the playing field for the start of the second half. This activity is an important tradition to Southern Miss football and is a very rewarding experience for children and student-athletes alike.

## ○ **FIFTH QUARTER CONCERT**

Immediately following each home football game, The Pride of Mississippi Marching Band performs a mini-concert featuring the University's alma mater while fans congregate on the field to briefly visit with players and socialize with one another.

## ○ **"AMAZING GRACE"**

A hallmark of Southern Miss' final home game of the football season is a stirring rendition of "Amazing Grace" performed by The Pride of Mississippi Marching Band. What started as a song in the band's repertoire has now become a beloved Southern Miss tradition.

## ○ **OFFICIAL RING**

The official ring is one of the most important traditions at Southern Miss. Adorned with images from both the Hattiesburg and Gulf Park campuses, it is not only a piece of jewelry but a piece of history.



The ring is treated much like a diploma and is awarded each year at the Official Ring Ceremony, which is hosted by the Southern Miss Alumni Association. Students who receive their rings wear them with the signet-style top of the ring facing them. Once they graduate, they turn the rings and wear them with the "dome" facing away, signifying that they are no longer students but alumni.



## ○ DOCTORAL REGALIA

The University honors the excellence of its doctoral graduates with custom regalia. In a stately color of antique gold, with black and white accents and a uniquely Southern Miss design, the regalia were designed by Southern Miss alumnus Dr. Reginald M. Houze '00.

The robe boasts custom features with the most distinctive being the University seal, featuring the Aubrey K. Lucas Administration Building dome embroidered in gold at chest level on both velvet panels. The hood adds meaning and dimension to the academic garment, with its color indicating the source of the degree. The Southern Miss doctoral regalia is finished with a six-corner black velvet tam with a gold metallic center button and tassel that are sewn in place.



## ○ THE UNIVERSITY MACE AND PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION



The mace, a symbol of academic prestige, is carried at the head of ceremonial occasions. It features an eagle that points with uplifted wings to a crown of laurel and is encased in an open orb of sterling silver. With "Southern Mississippi" embossed at its base, the orb adorns a 36-inch ebony staff, banded and tipped with silver.

The medallion, which symbolizes the Office of the President, is suspended on a ribbon of black velvet. Like the mace, the sterling silver medallion also features an eagle with uplifted wings to a crown of laurel, signifying honor and distinction. Engraved on

the reverse side of the medallion are the names of past Southern Miss presidents and the dates of their administrations.

The mace and medallion, designed by Southern Miss alumnus Ronlin Foreman '76, were first used for the inauguration of Dr. Aubrey K. Lucas as University president in 1976 and continue to be used today.

## ○ THE PAINTING OF THE "LITTLE ROCK"

The Little Rock features different sayings in support of Southern Miss athletics. The rock is painted by members of the Student Alumni Association, the student chapter of the Alumni Association, in an effort to increase enthusiasm throughout the campus. Phrases like "B(EAT) RICE" (for the Golden Eagles game against rival Rice University) and "ESPN Game Day at The Rock" are typical phrases painted on the Little Rock to show Southern Miss spirit. Students are encouraged to join the Student Alumni Association every Tuesday at 2 p.m. in The District to paint the Little Rock.



## ○ THE EAGLE WALK

### THE PLACE

Over the past century, Southern Miss has enjoyed a proud history of athletic excellence. For example, our football team boasts two national championships in football, Conference USA championships, All-Americans and significant bowl victories.

The Eagle Walk, located under the east side of The Rock (M.M. Roberts Stadium) on Eagle Walk Drive, displays the memories of Southern Miss' past and the promise of its future. It is a living monument that recognizes the greatness of all those who, on Saturdays during the fall, have had the privilege of going to battle for the Black and Gold.

### THE PAINTING

Each year during Golden Eagle Welcome Week, the freshman class gathers to leave its signature on the University by giving the Eagle Walk, sponsored by the Student Alumni Association, the student chapter of the Southern Miss Alumni Association, a fresh coat of gold paint. This time-honored tradition began in 1997 and transforms Eagle Walk Drive into a street of gold. The painting of the Eagle Walk is often one's first memory, one's first significant mark and one's first contribution to the University.



### THE EVENT

An unrivaled parade, Eagle Walk is a celebration of the spirit of Southern Miss football. On game day at Southern Miss, a cannon is fired and participants march from the Aubrey K. Lucas Administration Building to The Rock. The Pride of Mississippi Marching Band strikes up "Southern Miss to the Top!" as thousands cheer their Golden Eagles to victory.





## ○ LIGHTING THE WAY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

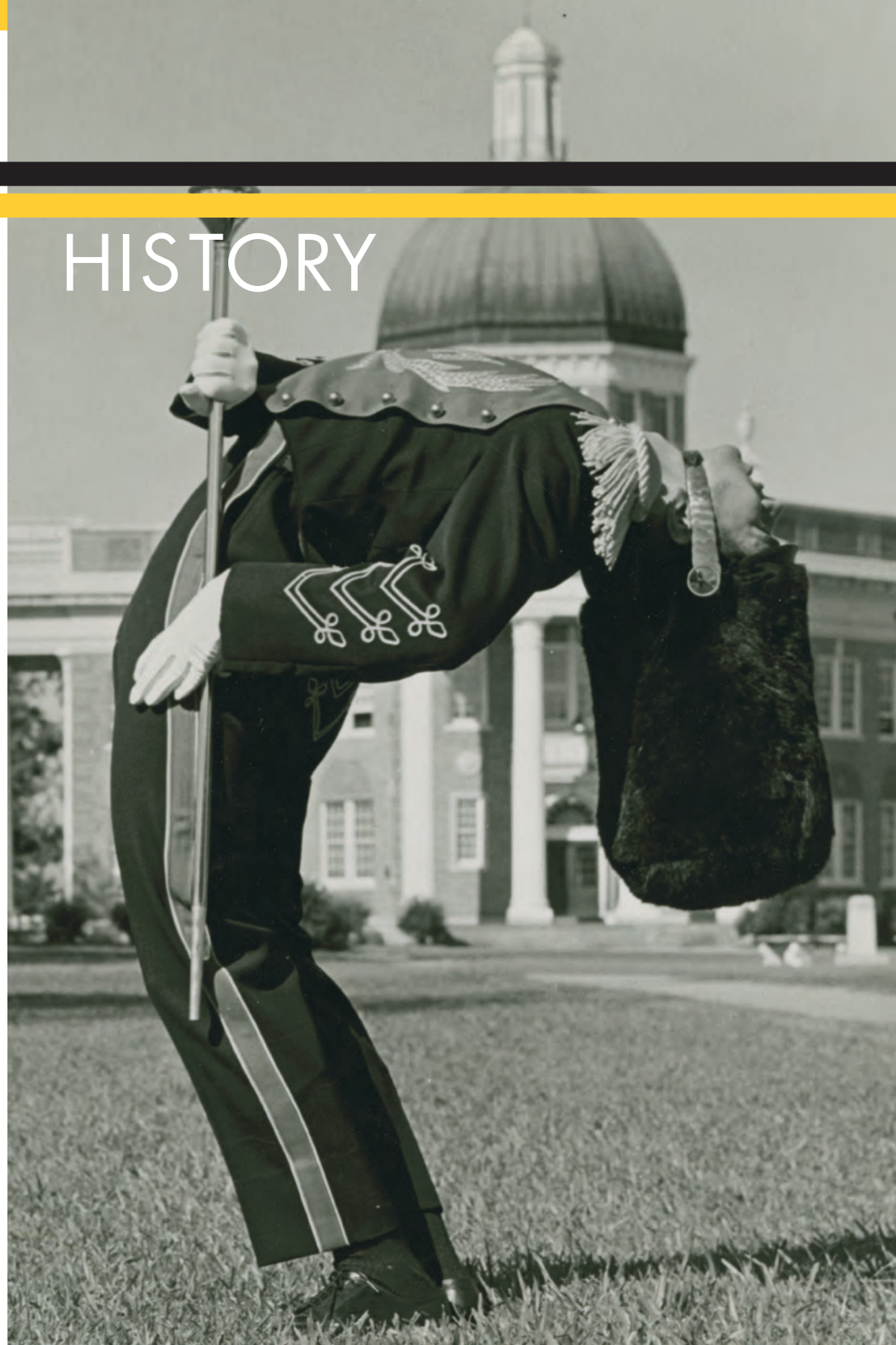
Holiday cheer overflows during the annual “Lighting the Way for the Holidays” celebration. Sponsored by the Student Government Association at The University of Southern Mississippi’s Hattiesburg campus, this event is the University’s youngest tradition.



This campus celebration includes holiday music, hot chocolate and photos with Southern Miss mascot Seymour and Santa Claus. The University’s 30-foot Christmas tree, which features more than 17,000 lights, sits on the front lawn of the Aubrey K. Lucas Administration Building. In addition, approximately 30 small lanterns adorn the front entrance to campus, sponsored by student organizations and other Southern Miss departments. Each year, groups that sponsor a lantern also raise money to benefit a local nonprofit organization or agency.



## HISTORY





## ○ HOW IT ALL BEGAN

Champions of Mississippi Normal College began their fight for the creation of a normal college in 1877. Finally, in 1906, the first normal college bill was introduced but died in the hostile House Education Committee. After a second normal college bill died in 1908, State Superintendent of Education J.N. Powers turned to T.P. Scott, then head of Brookhaven city schools and an active member of the Mississippi Teachers Association (MTA), to organize a campaign in support of a third bill, House Bill 204, which Rep. Marshall McCullough intended to introduce in 1910. The ensuing battle for Mississippi Normal College was described by the *Jackson Daily News* as “one of the greatest legislative fights of the decade.”

Since 1901, Scott had been sending an endless stream of mimeographed letters to county superintendents of education and newspaper editors throughout the state, asking for their support of the MTA and for the general interest of education in Mississippi. In 1908, he focused his efforts on the enemies of Bill 203, who soon found themselves besieged with letters, phone calls, telegrams and editorials from all parts of Mississippi, urging establishment of the normal college. Eventually, the statewide interest caused by all of the publicity helped “crystallize sentiment in the membership of the House,” Scott later wrote.

When the time came for the bill to be introduced to the House, Speaker H.M. Street asked the Honorable A.C. Anderson of Ripley, an enthusiastic supporter of the measure, to take his place while he smoked his afternoon cigar in the cloakroom. Anderson had no sooner taken the gavel when McCullough called up the normal college bill. After a number of pro and con speeches and the adoption of an amendment striking out the word “state” and the appropriation clause from the bill, the measure was passed by a vote of 59 yeas and 39 nays. The Senate promptly passed the bill for establishment of the college, and it was signed by Gov. Edmund Noel and became law on March 30, 1910.

## ○ SOUTHERN MISS: A THUMBNAIL SKETCH

Founded by Legislative Act on March 30, 1910, The University of Southern Mississippi was Mississippi’s first state-supported teacher training school. Originally known as Mississippi Normal College, the school was built

on 120 acres of cutover timber land donated by Messrs. H.A. Camp, A.A. Montague and Dr. T.E. Ross and funded by bonds issued by the City of Hattiesburg and Forrest County in the amount of \$250,000. The school’s stated purpose was to “qualify teachers for the public schools of Mississippi.” Mississippi Normal College opened for classes September 18, 1912, and hosted a total of 876 students during its initial session (506 in the regular session and 370 in the summer term).

### TIMELINE OF NAMES

Mississippi Normal College	1912-24
State Teachers College	1924-40
Mississippi Southern College	1940-62
The University of Southern Mississippi	1962-present



The first president, **Joseph Anderson “Joe” Cook**, oversaw construction of the original buildings and guided the school during its formative years. The school’s five original buildings were College Hall (the academic building); Forrest County Hall (men’s and married students’ dormitory); Hattiesburg Hall (women’s dormitory); the Industrial Cottage (training laboratory for home management); and the president’s home (now the Ogletree Alumni House).

Prior to 1922, the school awarded certificates, which required at least two terms of attendance, and diplomas, which required at least six terms of attendance. In 1922, the school was authorized to confer the baccalaureate degree, the first of which was awarded in May 1922 to Kathryn Swetman of Biloxi.



In 1924, the school underwent the first of a series of name changes. On March 7, 1924, Mississippi Normal College became State Teachers College (STC). Many improvements were instituted following the name change, as STC pursued accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools (SACS). One of the improvements was construction of the Demonstration School in 1927, which served as a training ground for student teachers. Sadly, on September 28, 1928, at the behest of Gov. Theodore G. Bilbo, President Cook was dismissed by the STC Board of Trustees.



The Board of Trustees selected Supervisor of Rural Schools **Claude Bennett** as second president of STC. Many of the faculty and staff remained loyal to the former president and viewed Bennett with suspicion. Nevertheless, it was during the Bennett administration that the school was approved for membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in 1929. Enrollment continued to increase, extension courses were offered in 25 Mississippi counties, and a strong music program was set in motion. Unfortunately Gov. Bilbo continued to meddle in the internal affairs of STC and other state-supported institutions of higher learning. As a result, SACS revoked the school's accreditation in 1930.

In 1932, due to the Great Depression, the state was unable to pay faculties' salaries. Fortunately, Hattiesburg banks arranged signature loans for hard-pressed faculty members, and grocery stores extended credit to those with good payment records. In 1932, a single board of trustees was created to oversee all of Mississippi's institutions of higher learning. Uppermost on the new board's agenda was removing political appointees of Gov. Bilbo, so in 1933, President Bennett was fired.

**Dr. Jennings Burton George**, a Mississippi Normal College alumnus, became the school's third president on July 1, 1933, and the first to hold a doctorate. The new chief executive inherited a huge debt, which he corrected by setting strict financial guidelines, cutting employees' salaries and freezing departmental budgets. His efforts not only resulted in a balanced budget, but each year of his administration ended with a small surplus in the treasury.



On February 13, 1940, the school's name was changed for the second time. Its new name, Mississippi Southern College (MSC), reflected the fact that it was no longer exclusively a teachers' college. During World War II, enrollment plummeted to around 300 as students and faculty members joined, or were drafted into, military service. Both head football coach Reed Green and his assistant Thad "Pie" Vann served in the armed forces. Looking ahead to the end of the war, President George established a \$35,000 trust fund to provide scholarships for returning veterans.



But in January 1945, before any of his plans were implemented, the Board of Trustees declined to rehire Dr. George, giving no definitive reason for its action. The school is deeply indebted to President George, for it was his leadership that steered it safely through both the Great Depression and World War II.

**Dr. Robert Cecil Cook** (no relation to Joe Cook) became the institution's fourth president, following his discharge from the Army on July 6, 1945. During his tenure, the Graduate Studies division was created, and the Reading Clinic, the



Latin American Institute, and the Speech and Hearing Clinic were established. Greek presence on campus was increased, the band program was expanded, the "Dixie Darlings" precision dance team was formed and enrollment soared to more than 2,000. The athletic program was strengthened as coaches Reed Green and Pie Vann returned from military service and resumed their former positions.

Over the next two decades, the combined efforts of these two outstanding coaches brought national recognition to the Southern Miss football program. In December 1954, Cook became the first president to leave the office voluntarily when he resigned the presidency to accept a position as vice president and general manager of the *Jackson State Times*, a new daily newspaper.



**Dr. Richard Aubrey McLemore** was named acting president, effective January 1, 1955, and served in that capacity until August 17, 1955. Dr. McLemore, known to the students as "Dr. Mac," had been a faculty member at MSC since 1938 and had served as professor of history, head of the Social Studies Division and dean of the college.

The Board of Trustees selected State Archivist **Dr. William David McCain** as the school's fifth president, and he assumed the office August 18, 1955, promising to keep the campus "dusty or muddy with construction." At least 17 new buildings were erected during the McCain administration, including Reed Green Coliseum.

Dr. McCain's driving ambition, however, was to achieve university status for MSC. To that end, he reorganized the academic programs into colleges and schools, and on February 27, 1962, Gov. Ross Barnett signed the bill that made Mississippi Southern College





a university: The University of Southern Mississippi.

The second watershed event of the McCain administration occurred in September 1965 when, for the first time in the school's history, African-American students were admitted. The first students were Raylawni Young Branch and Gwendolyn Elaine Armstrong.



Other noteworthy events of the McCain era included formation of the Oral History Program in 1971 and establishment of the Southern Miss Gulf Park campus in 1972. Also in 1972, the nickname of the athletic teams was changed from "Southerners" to "Golden Eagles." Dr. McCain retired from the presidency June 30, 1975.



On July 1, 1975, **Dr. Aubrey Keith Lucas** became the sixth president of Southern Miss. Dr. Lucas had a long history at the University, having served as instructor, director of admissions, registrar and dean of the Graduate School, in addition to holding both bachelor's and master's degrees from the school. Among the accomplishments that punctuated the Lucas years were the formation of the Teaching and Learning Resource Center; creation of the Faculty Senate; establishment of the Center for International Education; replacement of the quarter system with the semester system; creation of the Polymer Science Institute; reorganization of the University's 10 schools into six colleges; formation of the Institute for Learning in Retirement; and affiliation with the new athletic conference, Conference USA. After 21 years, Dr. Lucas stepped down from the presidency December 31, 1996, saying it was time for someone new.



**Dr. Horace Weldon Fleming Jr.** assumed his duties as Southern Miss' seventh president January 3, 1997. During his tenure, the School of Nursing became the College of Nursing; the Office of Technology Resources was created; a master's program in hydrographic science was added in the Department of Marine Science; a master's program in workforce training and development was added in the School of Engineering and Technology; and online classes were instituted. In addition, Southern Miss unveiled its "Strategic Plan for the Future." Designed to plot the University's course over the next three to five years, the plan envisioned Southern Miss as "a national university for the Gulf South." Dr. Fleming resigned the presidency in July 2001, and President Emeritus Dr. Aubrey Keith Lucas was selected to serve until the Board of Trustees of Institutions of Higher Learning hired a new president.

On May 1, 2002, **Dr. Shelby Freland Thames** became The University of Southern Mississippi's eighth president. Dr. Thames had been with the University for nearly four decades, serving as professor, department chair, dean and vice president. Under Dr. Thames' leadership, the University received a record number of research dollars topping \$100 million in a single year for the first time. Additionally, the number of Presidential Scholars tripled, and other scholarship programs were created. During the Thames administration, the University demonstrated consistent growth in its doctoral programs and was the only Class I university in the state as designated by the Southern Regional Education Board. The Thad Cochran Center, the Innovation and Commercialization Park, The Village residence halls, athletic facilities expansion and recovery from Hurricane Katrina are also hallmarks of his administration. Dr. Thames' tenure as president ended in May 2007, and he returned to faculty ranks as a noted polymer scientist.



May 21, 2007, was the first day of the presidency of **Dr. Martha Dunagin Saunders**. A Hattiesburg native, Saunders returned to her Mississippi roots to take the helm of her alma mater as the first female president.

Early in her tenure, Dr. Saunders instituted planning efforts to establish strategic university priorities. With these priorities as a solid foundation, Dr. Saunders led the University to new heights with record enrollment, new facilities, campus improvements and an enhanced university presence on the national stage. Dr. Saunders stepped down from the presidency July 1, 2012. Returning to familiar territory, Dr. Aubrey K. Lucas was selected to serve as the interim president for the University.

On April 1, 2013, **Dr. Rodney D. Bennett** became the University's 10th president and the first African-American president to hold this position. Only days after being chosen for the presidency, and more than a month from his official first day, Bennett showed the leadership qualities that led to his selection for the job. After an EF-4 tornado ripped through the Pine Belt and damaged buildings on the University's Hattiesburg campus, Bennett returned to survey the damage and worked over the next several weeks with administration, faculty, staff and students to assess what needed to be done to get the University on the road to recovery.



## ○ SOUTHERN MISS COASTAL OPERATIONS

The University's presence on the Mississippi Gulf Coast began in 1947 when then Mississippi Southern College first organized classes at Van Hook Hall, Methodist Camp Grounds, in Biloxi. In 1958, classroom space and facilities moved to Mary L. Michel Junior High School in Biloxi. To meet the educational needs of various occupational fields and interests along the Gulf Coast, the University relocated in 1964 to Keesler Air Force Base. Classroom facilities were obtained for night classes from the Jefferson Davis campus of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC); the addition was called the USM Harrison County Resident Center.



In September 1966, Southern Miss extended its offerings by adding the Jackson County Resident Center, located on the Jackson County campus of the MGCCC in Gautier. The Jackson County Center was built for the University by the Jackson County Board of Supervisors, largely through the efforts of Dr. Shelby Thames when he was executive vice president of Southern Miss. The center was constructed with the hope that a number of four-year degree programs would be located in Jackson County through Southern Miss and MGCCC.

In March 1972, the USM Harrison County Resident Center program was moved from the Jefferson Davis campus of MGCCC to the campus of the former Gulf Park College for Women on Highway 90 in Long Beach. Gulf Park was a two-year private school founded by Col. J.C. Hardy, who also founded the Gulf Coast Military Academy. The

school opened for classes September 10, 1921, and held its final commencement May 29, 1971. The school's closing was attributed to the sagging economy, damage from Hurricane Camille in 1969 and the increasing ability of community colleges to provide quality education at a low cost.



In July 1972, the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning established USM Gulf Park and Keesler Air Force Base Center as an upper-level, degree completion regional campus of the University, offering programs leading to degrees at the baccalaureate and graduate levels. In 1998, the University was classified as a dual-campus system, and in 2002, the Mississippi Supreme Court cleared the way for freshman and sophomore courses. Today, Southern Miss students on the Gulf Coast have access to bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs in more than 50 distinct academic fields.

The 52-acre beachfront Gulf Park campus in Long Beach features all six of the University's academic colleges and offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs. In addition, multiple teaching and research sites provide quality education and research opportunities on the coast.

In summer 2016, the University announced the establishment of the School of Ocean Science and Technology, positioning the University as a regionally, nationally and internationally recognized leader in marine science. The school brings together marine-related research and education programs and harnesses elements from key areas of the University, including the Division of Marine Science (DMS) based at the John C. Stennis Space Center in Hancock County, the USM Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL) in Ocean Springs, and the University's fleet of five research vessels.

The largest vessel in the University's fleet is the 135-foot *R/V Point Sur*, acquired in February 2015. The *R/V Point Sur* is the only oceanographic class research vessel homeported in the northern Gulf of Mexico, east of the Mississippi River.

In 1988, the Mississippi Board of Trustees of the Institutions of Higher Learning placed the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL) under the administrative oversight of The University of Southern Mississippi. GCRL is engaged in teaching, research, community outreach and programming. GCRL's operations include the Division of Coastal Sciences, Marine Education Center, Thad Cochran Marine Aquaculture Center at Cedar Point, the Center for Fisheries Research and Development, and Point Cadet.

The Stennis Space Center teaching and research site at the John C. Stennis Space Center in Hancock County houses the University's Division of Marine Science. The Center for Gulf Studies (CGS) and the Hydrographic Science Research Center (HSRC) are both located within DMS and provide support for oceanographic research conducted in the Gulf of Mexico.

### FRIENDSHIP OAK

On the Gulf Park campus of The University of Southern Mississippi, lives the Friendship Oak. A 500-year-old live oak tree loved by former students, revered by many, and remembered fondly by those whose relationships began underneath its branches.

#### QUICK FACTS:

Height - 59 feet

Crown Spread - 155 feet

Trunk Diameter - 6 feet 2.75 in.

Trunk Circumference -  
19 feet 9.5 inches



## AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL TIMELINE

**1968**

First African-American Student Organization, the Afro-American Cultural Society is formed.

**1968**-Basketball player Wilbert Jordan becomes the University's first African-American student-athlete.

**1980**

Jacqueline Redd is selected as the University's first African-American Homecoming Queen.

**April 1, 2013**

Dr. Rodney D. Bennett becomes the University's 10th president and first African-American president of any predominantly white university in the state of Mississippi.

**September 2015**

September 2015 marked the 50th anniversary of desegregation at USM. The University commemorated history by "Celebrating 50 Years of Progress: Desegregation of The University of Southern Mississippi."

**September 1965**-Southern Miss enrolls its first African-American students, Raylawni Branch and Gwendolyn Elaine Armstrong.

**1969**

Dr. Walter Washington becomes the first African-American to earn a doctoral degree from Southern Miss, also making him the first from any Mississippi institution of higher learning.

**1974**-Fred Cook is selected as the University's first African-American Mr. USM.

**February 1993**-At a University celebration honoring the contributions of African-American students, faculty and staff, the Student Services Building is renamed Kennard-Washington Hall in honor of Dr. Walter Washington and Clyde Kennard.

**September 2013**-The Armstrong-Branch Pedestrian Plaza is named and dedicated to honor the courage of the first African-American students, Raylawni Branch and Gwendolyn Elaine Armstrong.



## The University of Southern Mississippi Diversity Today

- The student body at Southern Miss is more diverse than ever with 37 percent of the student population being made up of minorities.
- Southern Miss is home to 17 predominately African-American student organizations, all of which are managed by the Office of Multicultural Services and Programs.
- Academic courses promoting research and educational opportunities related to the history and culture of African-Americans are available to students through the Southern Miss Center for Black Studies.
- The Southern Miss Alumni Association provides annual opportunities for black alumni to network, stay connected and contribute to their alma mater.



# CAMPUS



## ○ NOTABLE BUILDINGS

**Forrest County Hall:** Built as a residence hall for men and married students, the building is named for Forrest County, which in conjunction with the City of Hattiesburg provided funds for building the school. It currently houses business offices.



**Hattiesburg Hall:** Built as a residence hall for women, the building was named for the City of Hattiesburg in honor of its role in providing funds to build the school. The building continues to function as a residence hall.

**The Honor House:** Originally called the Industrial Cottage, this building was used to provide a laboratory for girls to “learn practical home-keeping in all its phases.” Since then, the two-story brick structure has served as the campus clinic, a dormitory, faculty housing, the USM Foundation, and now the Honors College. The name Honor House came about in 1957 when the building housed upper-class and graduate female students who lived there “on their honor.” This meant there were no house matrons, and residents made their own rules and regulations, abiding by them with the guidance and direction of the dean of women.

**Ogletree Alumni House:** The Ogletree Alumni House served as the president’s home until 1975 when it was donated to the Alumni Association for use as its headquarters. The building is named for Powell G. Ogletree, the first full-time executive director of the Alumni Association, who served from 1953 to 1987. An extensive restoration and expansion project completed in 2009 returned the structure to its original glory as well as a significant increase in its size.





## ○ BUILDINGS NAMED FOR SOUTHERN MISS PRESIDENTS

**Joseph Anderson Cook Memorial Library:** Named for the school's first president, Joseph Anderson "Joe" Cook (1911-28), the original Joe Cook Memorial Library was completed in 1940 and is now Kennard-Washington Hall. The first increment of the current Cook Library was built in 1960 with additions in 1966 and 1995. It houses the University Libraries' primary collection of books, periodicals, media resources, music resources and other related collections.

**Bennett Auditorium:** Named for the school's second president, Claude Bennett (1928-33), it was completed in 1930 and named in 1972. The building was designed in keeping with the architecture of the school's original structures and is used for a variety of purposes, including concerts and forums.

**J.B. George Building:** The former Speech and Hearing Building at The University of Southern Mississippi was officially renamed the J.B. George Building in honor of the University's third president during a ceremony held June 14, 2012, on the Hattiesburg campus. George's name previously graced the University's longtime cafeteria known as The Commons. That building was torn down in 2009 and replaced with a beautifully landscaped area called Centennial Green.

**R.C. Cook Union:** Named for the school's fourth president, Dr. Robert Cecil "R.C." Cook (1945-54), the University Union was completed in 1976. Use of the building is primarily for student-related activities. Housed in the building are Seymour's, a convenience store, a game room and meeting rooms.

**Richard Aubrey McLemore Hall:** Named for the school's first interim president (January-August 1955), McLemore Hall was completed in 1956 and was the original home of the R.C. Cook Union. The union housed Nat's Nook, an on-campus eatery where Jimmy

Buffett, a Southern Miss student, often performed. The building's current use is for classrooms and offices.



**William David McCain Library and Archives:** Named for the school's fifth president, Dr. William D. McCain (1955-75), this building houses several offices and programs, including the Graduate School and the Special Collections components of the University Libraries, including the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection.

**Aubrey K. Lucas Administration Building:** Named for the school's sixth president, Dr. Aubrey Keith Lucas (1975-96), it currently houses the offices of the University's president and vice presidents.

**Horace W. Fleming Jr. Education Center:** Named for the school's seventh president, Dr. Horace Weldon Fleming Jr. (1997-2001), this building on the Gulf Park campus features 20 regular classrooms, three computer laboratories, two interactive video network rooms, a conference room and a 500-seat auditorium.



**Shelby Freeland Thames Polymer Science Research Center:** Named for the school's eighth president, Dr. Shelby F. Thames (2002-07), it currently houses the School of Polymers and High Performance Materials, the Mississippi Polymer Institute, and the Polymer Science Center.

## ○ ICONS

**All-American Rose Garden:** Planted in 1973 by the Hattiesburg Area Rose Society, the Rose Garden is maintained by the Southern Miss Physical Plant. In 1975, the garden was approved as an accredited Public Rose Garden by All-American Rose Selections, Inc. It was featured in the September 1992 issue of *American Rose* magazine. Located near the front entrance of the campus, the semicircular garden consists of 32 separate beds, each containing its own unique hybrid of roses. It has become an unofficial campus tradition to have one's photo taken in cap and gown on graduation day.



## PICK AT YOUR OWN RISK

The All-American Rose Garden has produced lush, brightly colored flowers that have enticed countless Southern Miss students to pick the blossoms for their significant others. Adding to the blooms' allure is a widely held concern that the University fines those caught picking flowers with a hefty price ranging between \$50 and \$500 per rose.

**The Dome:** Aubrey K. Lucas Administration Building, affectionately referred to as “The Dome,” is named for the school’s sixth president, Dr. Aubrey Keith Lucas (1975-96). With its patina top and distinctive architecture, The Dome is the focal point of the campus. Housed inside are the offices of the University’s president and vice presidents.

**Centennial Gateway:** The Centennial Gateway serves as an impressive and dignified entrance to The University of Southern Mississippi. In 2009, the Ed Langton family of Hattiesburg donated \$200,000 to fund the construction of the gateway, in addition to a



\$17,777.77 contribution from The Gold Leaf Society, a secret society that has helped support a number of Southern Miss projects in recent years. The 125-foot-wide brick and cast stone welcoming structure at the main entrance to the Hattiesburg

campus on Hardy Street was completed and dedicated on March 30, 2010, as part of the University’s 100th anniversary celebration.

**Lake Byron:** In October 1933, members of the senior class voted to construct an artificial lake in a low, swampy plot of ground at the front of campus as their gift to the school (then State Teachers College). Dr. Byron E. Green, president of the Forrest County

Board of Supervisors, assisted the class in its preparations and secured laborers from government relief agencies to dig the lake. Ground was broken on November 20, 1933, and plans called for the lake to be four feet deep (sufficient for canoeing), 500 feet long, and 135 feet across at its widest part. In appreciation for his assistance on the project, the senior class voted



to name the lake in honor of Dr. Byron Green. The lake was officially dedicated as Lake Byron on May 28, 1934. Over the years, the lake became a campus icon.

**Roberts Schoolhouse:** Built in 1899 in Northeast Jackson County for \$80, the one-room Roberts Schoolhouse offers visitors a rare glimpse into the past. Now located in its original form on the patio of Owings-McQuagge Hall, the structure is complete with McGuffey’s Readers, desks with inkwells, slate chalkboard, wood stove, individual lesson slates and many other items familiar to early learners.



Classes were held in the one-room schoolhouse until 1922 when consolidation forced its closure. Everything in the schoolhouse is original except for a few nails and several windowpanes. In 1981, the building was disassembled, and every part was numbered. The parts were then brought to Southern Miss, and the building was reassembled on the patio of Owings-McQuagge Hall.

The structure has special significance to Southern Miss. Dr. M.M. Roberts, a well-known local attorney, member of the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, and for whom the University’s football stadium is named, received his early education in the building.



**The Rock (M.M. Roberts Stadium):** Our stadium is named for local attorney Dr. M.M. Roberts, a Southern Miss alumnus, longtime Southern Miss supporter and former member of the Board of Trustees of Institutions of Higher Learning. Roberts was on the University’s football team from 1914-15. The east side of the stadium, which was completed in 1939 and also

served as a men’s dormitory, was nicknamed “The Rock” by football players who helped with the construction of the stadium for scholarships and training purposes. The west side of the stadium was completed in 1953, and the upper decks were added in 1976. In 2008, a construction project was completed that enclosed the South End Zone of M.M. Roberts Stadium, which added 4,000 seats to the stadium.



**Lofty Return:** On October 24, 2013, two massive golden eagle statues were dedicated to the University by alumnus Chuck Scianna – one on the Hattiesburg campus and the other on the Gulf Park campus. Named *Lofty Return*, the sculptures symbolically tie the campuses together while welcoming alumni back to their alma mater. The Hattiesburg eagle is positioned at the apex of the Rose Garden that faces Hardy Street and now stands a prominent campus icon.



## OTHER BUILDINGS, FACILITIES AND FEATURES

**Danforth Chapel:** Built in 1957, the \$10,000 seed money for the chapel was donated by the Danforth family of St. Louis, Mo., owners of the Purina cereal and pet food company. Matching funds of \$25,000 were raised primarily through donations from faculty, staff and students. Dr. John F. Nau, professor of religion and philosophy and University chaplain, was largely responsible for raising funds needed for the chapel. The chapel's stained glass windows were added in 1987.



**Carlisle-Faulkner Field:** In honor of one of the University's most generous supporters, Gene Carlisle, Faulkner Field underwent a name change in 2004 and became Carlisle-Faulkner Field. The playing field in M.M. Roberts Stadium was built in 1932 by unemployed men of Hattiesburg and named for Louis Edward "L.E." Faulkner, chairman of Hattiesburg's Committee on Unemployment Relief. Lights were added in 1934, and a public address system was installed in 1937. Prior to construction of Faulkner Field, football games were played in Kamper Park.



**Little Rock:** Located between The District and McLemore Hall, the Little Rock plays an important role during football season. Every Tuesday at 2 p.m., the Little Rock is given a fresh coat of paint by the Student Alumni Association, the student chapter of the Alumni Association, and bears a spirited phrase about that week's opponent.



**Pete Taylor Park:** Home of the Golden Eagles baseball team, the facility is named for former coach and assistant athletic director C.J. "Pete" Taylor (1955-83). Opened in 1985 and renovated in 1990, the facility's nickname is "The Pete." The Pete's field is named Hill Denson Field after former baseball head coach Hill Denson.

**Petrified Tree:** Located beside Danforth Chapel, the 60-foot, 23-ton, 11 million-year-old tree was discovered in December 1986 by William Thomas Johnson, an Ovett, Miss., landowner. The tree was relocated to the Southern Miss campus on September 4, 1987.

**Reed Green Coliseum:** Home of the Golden Eagles basketball teams, it was completed in 1965 and is named for former head football coach and athletic director Bernard Reed Green. The facility's nickname is The Greenhouse.

**Shoemaker Square:** The bricked pedestrian plaza in front of The Hub was named in memory of former Dean of Students Tom Shoemaker, who died as the result of a 1997 traffic accident.

**Stephen Lane Hatten Memorial Grove:** Located directly behind the grandstands in Pete Taylor Park, the grove features benches, tables, a pavilion and trees. It also serves as a living memorial to former Golden Eagle catcher Stephen Hatten, who lost his long battle with cancer May 2, 1998.

**Lake Thoreau Environmental Center:** Located on Thoreau Road off of Fourth Street in Hattiesburg, the property was donated to the USM Foundation in 2000 by the Eubanks family with the intention that it be utilized as a nature preserve for scientific, educational and aesthetic purposes. It is managed by the Southern Miss Department of Biological Sciences. It serves as an invaluable resource for biology research, teaching and outreach for students at the University, as well as area high schools.

**The Thad Cochran Center:** The \$34 million project, an expansion of the R.C. Cook Union, added 270,000 square feet of additional space to the previous facility. The four-story structure, which opened in 2006, houses a Barnes and Noble bookstore, an elaborate dining facility, conference rooms and a ballroom.



After serving in the U.S. House of Representatives from Mississippi's fourth district, Cochran was elected to the United States Senate in 1978 and served as the Magnolia State's senior senator until 2018.



**Trent Lott Center:** The Trent Lott National Center for Excellence in Economic Development and Entrepreneurship brings the University's renowned multiple academic and professional economic development programs together in a state-of-the-art educational facility that serves and advances the economic development professional throughout the state, nation and world.

The center is named for the former Senate Majority Leader from Mississippi who left Congress in 2007.

**West Memorial Plaza:** In 2003, West Memorial Drive was transformed into a pedestrian-only brick plaza. Located in the historic heart of campus and covered by a beautiful canopy of oak trees, the plaza connects Shoemaker Square to the University's main entrance. Since its creation, a number of engraved bricks have been installed along the plaza in honor of various individuals and campus groups. In 2012, the Southern Miss Alumni Association introduced the Buy a Brick, Leave a Legacy Brick Program that encourages the purchase of engraved bricks by Southern Miss alumni, friends and fans with the proceeds benefitting the Pierce Legacy Scholarship Program.



**Century Park:** On Oct. 6, 2010, University of Southern Mississippi officials, state and local dignitaries, and students helped cut the ribbon at Century Park. Named in celebration of Southern Miss' centennial, Century Park is an 864-bed, living-learning community for freshman students, including Honors College and scholarship recipients. It also houses upper-class females.



**Century Park South:** Century Park South brings state-of-the-art residence halls to Southern Miss, providing 954 beds for freshmen and other scholarship students. The \$55.6 million project features three buildings – Vann, Scott and Luckyday Citizenship Halls.

Vann Hall was built in the footprint of the old Vann Hall and a portion of Bond Hall. Vann Hall was named for former football coach Thad "Pie" Vann, who led Southern Miss to an undefeated season in 1958. The original dorm stood from 1967 until 2013.

**Centennial Green:** Located on the former site of the J.B. George Commons, Centennial Green is a designated green space used for concerts, tailgating, outdoor events and relaxation by Southern Miss students.

**Moffitt Health Center:** March 16, 2015, the Moffitt Health Center opened its doors for business on the first floor of Scott Hall, which is part of the new Century Park South residential complex on the Hattiesburg campus.

The Moffitt Health Center replaces the Beedie Smith Health Clinic, a free-standing building that opened on the Hattiesburg campus in 1962. The center increases the square footage dedicated to Student Health Services by 30 percent, providing much-needed space for more efficient laboratory and X-ray activity, larger health care provider work areas, a more accessible pharmacy and a dental care area.



Beedie Smith, affectionately known as "Granny" served as the campus nurse for over 20 years. She served the University during World War II were officers in the Army administration's training school moved into the Campus Hospital under her supervision. There is a plaque in the new Moffitt Health Center in her honor.

**Scianna Hall:** Scianna Hall, a 93,000-square-foot facility located next to the Trent Lott National Center for Excellence in Economic Development and Entrepreneurship, is named in honor of Southern Miss alumnus Charles "Chuck" Scianna, who committed \$6 million toward the project.

Scianna Hall contains special facilities such as the Creative Learning Lab, The First Center for Financial Services lab with its Bloomberg terminal, the Draughn Center for Healthcare Marketing room, the Green Center for Economic and Entrepreneurship Education room, and the Ivey Conference Room.





## ○ RESILIENCE

**Hurricane Katrina:** On August 29, 2005, one of the most powerful natural disasters in the history of the United States, Hurricane Katrina, devastated the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and The University of Southern Mississippi was not spared.

With Southern Miss facilities washed away on some sites, and damage to other coastal sites and the Hattiesburg campus, the historic Friendship Oak on the Gulf Park campus remained to overlook the devastation of the three historic buildings on the 52-acre beachfront campus. Fortunately, a



renovated, former hospital facility in Gulfport took shape to open as the Southern Miss Gulf Coast Student Service Center, and classes reopened in only six weeks. In all, the University suffered an estimated \$290 million in losses and damages from the storm.

Although more than 120 faculty and staff had completely lost their homes, the Southern Miss family came together to repair and rebuild – nothing became more important. The University of Southern Mississippi was determined to rebuild and restore for the betterment of the coastal communities. Despite the devastation, Southern Miss students, faculty, staff and alumni emerged from Katrina's wrath with their resolve intact. At the beginning of the spring 2006 semester, the University began offering classes on the reopened Gulf Park campus in Long Beach.

Damages to facilities in Hattiesburg, which included repairs to the iconic Aubrey K. Lucas Administration Building, were completed in 2010, while the Gulf Park campus in Long Beach embodies the spirit of renewal and rebirth from this devastating storm. By the 10-year anniversary of Katrina, the Gulf Park campus had repaired 270,000 square feet of classroom and office space lost during the storm, with plans for additional facilities and improvement projects well underway.

Hurricane Katrina destroyed more than 60,000 square feet of buildings at the University's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL) in Ocean Springs. By the 10-year anniversary of Katrina in 2015, GCRL had replaced 13,227 square feet of space, with plans to replace an additional 30,000 square feet in the near future.

The future of the University's coastal operations is strong, and the entire University community remains firmly committed to providing high-quality education and research opportunities in the Gulf Coast region.

**February 10, 2013 Tornado:** On Sunday, February 10, 2013, an EF-4 tornado ripped through Hattiesburg, devastating more than 700 homes in Forrest and Lamar counties and causing significant damage to the southern edge of the Southern Miss campus.

One music building, the Jazz Station, was completely destroyed, while seven other structures received significant damage. One of the buildings that received heavy destruction was the Ogletree Alumni House, an iconic landmark at the front of campus that was built



in 1912 to serve as the president's home. Most of the devastation to the facility occurred on its southeast side, where the roof and walls were blown away, and the front columns, bricks and windows at the front of the building were also severely damaged. The Mannoni Performing Arts Center and Fine Arts Building had several broken windows, water damage in classrooms and roof destruction, while the newly renovated Marsh Hall experienced some damage to its wood flooring.

Just three hours after the tornado ripped through the Pine Belt, a group of nearly 1,000 students came together on Facebook to discuss how they could help get Southern Miss back up and running. Because of a previously scheduled, two-day Mardi Gras holiday, many students were not on campus when the storm hit, but that didn't stop hundreds of them from planning their recovery efforts from afar and returning to help.

The tornado presented Southern Miss with some difficult challenges, but the campus community stepped up to overcome each obstacle, proving that those associated with the University are resilient.

April 15, 2013, the USM Foundation announced a comprehensive landscaping plan to restore the southern edge of the University's Hattiesburg campus and a Campus Beautification Campaign to generate private funds to help address the cost of the plan. To kick-start the Campus Beautification Campaign, the Southern Miss Alumni Association provided a \$100,000 contribution, and on May 7, 2013, five mature oak trees, measuring 40-feet high by 40-feet wide, were planted to kick off the first phase of the landscaping plan.



## ○ PUBLICATIONS

### OFFICIAL STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

**School Newspaper:** The first school newspaper was published on December 21, 1918, and its title was *Normal College News*. The paper was published every Saturday while school was in session. President Joe Cook sent a copy of the publication to Gov. Theodore G. Bilbo, whose response was, “The little thing looks puny.” President Cook countered the governor’s remark by reminding him that since both he and the governor were of modest stature, they should be “the last men in the world to condemn men or things because of lack of corporeal immensity.” The governor relented and promised to “try to be satisfied with the infinitesimal creature.”

When the school’s name was changed to State Teachers College in 1924, the newspaper became *Teachers College News*. In 1926, *Teachers College News* editor Olen Brewer initiated an effort to enlarge the paper and change its name.

Brewer smoked a pipe labeled “Student Prince” and suggested that name for the paper. His suggestion was not practical, however, because of the popular contemporary play by that name. Brewer then approached two Austrian professors who were on the faculty at that time and asked about a foreign word for “prince.” One of the professors supplied the word “printz.”

After much discussion and debate, the name *The Student Printz* was presented to the student body for a vote. The new name was approved, and the first issue of the *Printz* was published in January 1927.



**The Drawl:** The student handbook was called *The Drawl* from approximately 1954 to 1978. There are no existing records to indicate the reason for adopting *The Drawl* as the handbook’s name, but an inference can be drawn from the fact that the school’s name included the word “Southern,” and what do Southerners do if not drawl? The first student handbook was simply called *Normal College Hand Book*. When the school’s name was changed to State Teachers College, the handbook was renamed the *Handbook of State Teachers College*. From 1936 to approximately 1940, the name *Freshlite* was used for the handbook. When the school underwent its second name change in 1940, the handbook was renamed the *Handbook of Mississippi Southern College*.



From about 1980–88, the handbook was simply the *Student Handbook*, but in 1989, it was renamed *Southern Dawn* and remained so until 1994 when it reverted to the *Student Handbook*. Over the years, the handbooks have been published by the school’s chapters of the YMCA and YWCA, the Student Government Association (also known as the Associated Student Body), and the Division of Student Affairs.

*The Drawl* was revived in 2002 by the Alumni Association to ensure that the traditions and history of Southern Miss are passed on to all future Golden Eagles. It is distributed to all new students upon their arrival at Southern Miss.





# ATHLETICS

Athletics began modestly at Mississippi Normal College. In September 1912, 150 students organized the Athletic Association and elected science professor R. J. Slay as athletics director. Football was the school's first sport and was new to many country boys in 1912. Only after much persuasion did 13 "stalwart" souls, two of them one-armed, volunteer for the school's first squad. The inaugural game was a 30-0 thrashing of the Hattiesburg Boy Scouts, coached, ironically, by future State Teachers College President Claude Bennett. Highlights of the early years included a 113-0 triumph over Mize and a 13-7 near miss against Ole Miss in 1913.

In addition to football, the early athletic program at MNC included tennis, track, women's volleyball, softball, basketball and indoor baseball. Over the last 100 years, the Athletics Department has grown to include 16 sport programs at the Division I level sponsored by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

## ○ ATHLETICS CONFERENCE

**Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association:** Mississippi Southern College (MSC) joined the SIAA in December 1930 and remained in the conference until 1947. Membership in SIAA ensured that only four-year institutions would appear on the football team's schedules.

**Gulf States Conference:** In 1948, MSC joined Spring Hill College of Mobile, Ala., and seven Louisiana institutions to form the Gulf States Conference. The football team found great success in the new conference, winning three championships before withdrawing from the GSC in 1952. The reason MSC withdrew is because Athletics Director Reed Green wanted to turn the Southerners into a major competitor in college football, and he believed independent status would free him to add more prominent names to the schedule. Also in 1952, MSC joined the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

**Metro Conference:** The Metro Conference, originally called the Metro Six, was formed July 13, 1975. Southern Miss was a member of the conference from 1982 until 1995 when Conference USA formed. Other members of the conference included Florida State University, University of South Carolina, University of North Carolina-Charlotte, Georgia Tech, Virginia Tech, University of South Florida, University of Louisville, Tulane University, University of Memphis, University of Cincinnati and Virginia Commonwealth University.

Men's sports included baseball, basketball, cross country, golf, swimming and diving, tennis, and track and field. Women participated in basketball, cross country, golf, swimming and diving, track and field, tennis and volleyball.

**Conference USA:** Conference USA unveiled its name, logo and commissioner on April 24, 1995, in Chicago. Mike Slive was named the first commissioner.

In April 1995, with the help of University President Aubrey Lucas and Athletics Director Bill McLellan, Southern Miss became one of the charter members of the new conference. C-USA began its inaugural season with basketball play; the football



teams began conference play in 1996. With the establishment of the conference came a tremendous amount of national exposure, including a series of contracts with Fox Sports, CSTV, ESPN and ESPN's subsidiaries.

The University of Southern Mississippi, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University, Louisiana Tech University, Marshall University, Middle Tennessee State University, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, University of North Texas, Old Dominion University, Rice University, University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), and Western Kentucky University are current members of this 14-team, all-sports Conference USA.

## ○ FOOTBALL

Over its entire history, the Southern Miss football team has won two College Division national championships in 1958 and 1962, respectively. The team also has been the leader in Conference USA, winning five titles, including three of the league's first four championships. Entering the 2012 season, Southern Miss was also just one of four programs in the nation that posted at least 18 consecutive winning seasons.

The program has had three undefeated seasons overall, including a 9-0 season in 1958. Thirty-three All-Americans have graced the Southern Miss sidelines, including 12 first-team selections. In their history, the Golden Eagles have sent dozens of players to the NFL, including NFL Team of the Century member Ray Guy and three-time NFL Most Valuable Player Brett Favre.



### DID YOU KNOW?

- Did you know that the first football game was with the Hattiesburg Boy Scouts, coached by future Southern Miss President Claude Bennett? Mississippi Normal College, led by L.S. Venable, who had been elected president of the Athletics Department, pounded the scouts 30-0 and went on to post a 3-1-1 season. Other early opponents included a local agricultural high school, Mississippi College, Southwestern Louisiana and Ole Miss.
- Did you know that our first football team's beginnings could be traced back to 1912, the first year of the school's existence? Football games were played at Kamper Park, which had no seats; so spectators stood to watch the games. The first team consisted of 13 men, two of whom were one-armed.

## ○ NASTY BUNCH

A ferocious defense was the hallmark of former head football coach Bobby Collins and former defensive coordinator Jim Carmody's style of football. In 1976, a particularly talented group of linebackers anchored Collins' defense and were dubbed the Nasty Bunch. The moniker remained, as did Southern Miss' indomitable defense still known today as the Nasty Bunch.

## ○ BASKETBALL

From its first season when coach R.J. Slay led the men's basketball team, Southern Miss has enjoyed its share of success on the court. In the 1990s, the Golden Eagles had three season titles. In 2011, for the first time in 21 years, Southern Miss traveled to the NCAA tournament. The Golden Eagles (25-8) earned an at-large bid to the East Region as a No. 9 seed, their highest in school history. The program also had an NIT Championship team with its run in the 1987 postseason. The team has had six players drafted, including two first-round picks in Clarence Weatherspoon and Randolph Keys. Overall, the team has had one All-American honoree, Tom Bishop, along with numerous other all-conference players. Southern Miss has won two conference championships in basketball, including a share of the regular-season title in 2001.



The Lady Eagles basketball team also has a storied history. With 11 postseason appearances, women's basketball is the most prolific program at Southern Miss. Included in those 11 appearances, the Lady Eagles have made it to the NCAA Tournament eight times, advancing to the Sweet 16 in 1994. The program has won six conference championships and has had four All-Americans, including Janice Felder, who was a Kodak All-American First-Team honoree in 1994.





## ○ BASEBALL

Southern Miss ranks among the elite teams in the conference. Entering 2012, the teams had made nine consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances, advanced to the College World Series in 2009 and in 2003, the Golden Eagles hosted a NCAA Regional for the first time. The program has produced 21 All-Americans and numerous other All-Conference players. Since 2000, Golden Eagles baseball players have been drafted 29 times, including four following the 2011 campaign.



## ○ SOFTBALL

After reforming the team in 1999, the Lady Eagles softball team has gone to two Women's College World Series and has made four postseason appearances. The team also boasts four Conference USA championships, as well as three All-Americans: Amy Berman, Courtney Blades and Auriel Jenkins.

## ○ OLYMPIC SPORTS

The volleyball team has had six 20-win seasons, including its first Conference USA title in 2009, and its roster features a number of All-Conference players. The women's soccer squad frequently makes the Conference USA postseason tournament and boasts a number of All-Conference players. The men's and women's track and field and cross-country teams have posted successful seasons over the years and have boasted of 21 All-Americans, including three-time All-American Tori Bowie. In 2011, Bowie won both the NCAA indoor and outdoor long jump championships and participated in the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In 2012, Ganna Demydova won the 2012 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field triple jump title. The recent graduate and former track and field All-American represented her native country Ukraine at the 2012 Olympic Games in London in the triple jump. The men's and women's tennis teams have more than two dozen conference honorees combined, and the men's and women's golf teams have also had many of their players garner All-Conference honors.



## ○ TRIVIA QUESTIONS

1. WHAT IS THE UNIVERSITY'S MOTTO?
2. WHAT WERE THE INSTITUTION'S EARLIEST NICKNAMES FOR ITS ATHLETIC TEAMS?
3. WHEN DID THE INSTITUTION ACHIEVE UNIVERSITY STATUS?
4. WHAT WAS THE INSTITUTION'S FIRST NAME?
5. WHO WERE THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS TO ENROLL AT SOUTHERN MISS?
6. IN 1972, THE NEW MASCOT FOR SOUTHERN MISS, THE "GOLDEN EAGLES" WAS SELECTED FROM A LIST OF FIVE. WHAT WERE THE OTHER FOUR POSSIBLE MASCOTS?
7. WHAT WAS THE ORIGINAL NAME AND PURPOSE OF THE HONOR HOUSE ON THE HATTIESBURG CAMPUS?
8. WHO BUILT CARLISLE-FAULKNER FIELD AND IN WHAT YEAR WAS IT BUILT?
9. WHAT DATE WAS THE UNIVERSITY FOUNDED?
10. WHAT WAS THE ORIGINAL NAME OF THE SCHOOL YEARBOOK IN 1914, AND WHAT DID THE NAME MEAN?

*(Answers on page 72)*





# STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS



## ○ THE FOUNDATION OF STUDENT LIFE: EARLY STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Student organizations have existed on campus for more than 100 years. Since the arrival of the first class in 1912, students have organized themselves into groups based on everything from academic interest to geographic origin. Among the first student organizations formed on campus were Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations, founded to unite Mississippi Normal College's students and provide opportunity for Bible study and Christian service.

Other social outlets included the literary societies: the Prestonian (named for former state superintendent of education John R. Preston), the Platonian, the Sherwood Bonner (named for a Holly Springs author of local color fiction) and the Mississippian, which involved women in programs of "music, readings, discussions, literary criticism, etc." After 1917, when the Smith-Hughes Act provided federal money for vocational education, the college began to train home economics teachers for public schools. Soon thereafter, agriculturally based clubs, including the tomato and corn clubs, along with the egg, poultry and pig clubs, and the cooperative dairy association, became popular among the student body. In the early years, there were also county clubs, a college quartet, tennis club, debate team, women's glee club, storytellers' league and Shakespeare club.

In the 1950s, student life experienced another burst of activity as President Cook placed a heavy emphasis on student organizations and campus involvement. Besides the national leadership organizations, Omicron Delta Kappa and Phi Delta Rho, there were honorary societies in biology, drama, chemistry, commerce, education, mathematics, home economics, literature, music, foreign languages, religion and speech. New denominational clubs appeared for Catholics, Episcopalians, Methodists and Lutherans. Service organizations emerged, including the Pan American Student Association, Circle K and the Yellowjackets (who would later evolve into the group known as "Southern Style").



## ○ STUDENT GOVERNMENT HISTORY

On October 8, 1912, the students, at President Cook's urging, organized a Student Self-Government Association. All students were members of the association, bound by honor to observe its motto: "Every Man a Gentleman and Every Woman a Lady." Officers included a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and an elected council of eight men and seven women whose duty it was to hear cases of student misconduct



and recommend punishment to the faculty. In the late 1950s, the Student Government Association was reorganized to include a student senate as well as men's and women's affairs boards.

In 1991, Derek Hopson became the school's first black Associated Student Body president and in 1994, Cindy Woods became the school's first female ASB president.

Student Government has been in existence, in some form, for more than 100 years and holds the title as the institution's oldest student organization. Over the years, the Student Government Association has passed legislation relative to student governance and conduct and has made numerous recommendations to the administration for changes in student life rules and regulations. Today, the Miss University of Southern Mississippi Pageant, Homecoming festivities, Eaglepalooza, Lighting the Way for the Holidays, the Big Event and student elections are among the group's annual signature events.



## ○ GREEK LIFE

In 1934, another basic element of college life came to the school when seven male students organized the XXX club to "bring about closer fellowship among the fellow men of State Teachers College." In February of the following year, the club became Kappa Alpha Tau, the college's first social fraternity. Kappa Phi Sigma appeared in 1937, changing to Zeta Sigma four years later to become the first affiliate of a national fraternity on campus. By that time, the college had five sororities, two of them with national affiliation. Sigma Theta Kappa was the first local group, organized in November 1935, followed by Mu Omega in 1937. The third local group, Gamma Delta Tau, petitioned to join Sigma Sigma Sigma, and in May 1937, became State Teacher's College first national sorority. Alpha Sigma Alpha followed, accepting another local sorority into its national organization. The fifth women's group was a local sorority, Delta Sigma, founded in 1938. The College Panhellenic Council was established to unify on-campus sororities in 1937.



During his presidency, Dr. R.C. Cook made the expansion of Greek life at Mississippi Southern College a major objective. Cook's secretary, Jane McInnis, had been a member of Chi Omega during her college days at the University of Alabama, and with her help, he lured this prestigious national social sorority to Mississippi Southern College in 1949. Kappa Delta came the same year, and Phi Mu followed in 1950. A year later, former Mississippi First Lady Corinne Johnson helped organize a Delta Delta Delta chapter, giving the school seven national sororities.



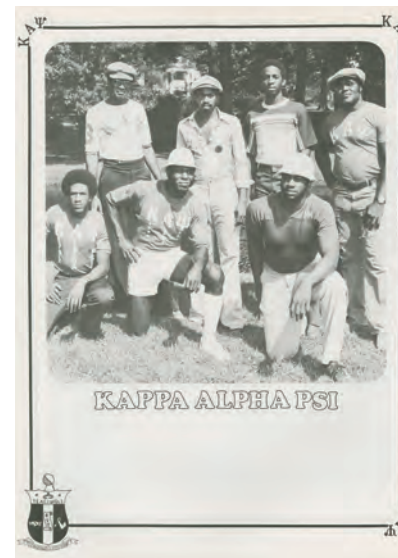
Attracting Greek-letter organizations for men to Mississippi Southern College proved more difficult, according to Cook, because "the national fraternities took a more standoffish look at schools which had formerly been teachers colleges." However, several did come, including Phi Kappa Tau, Kappa Alpha Order and Kappa Sigma in 1948; Alpha Tau Omega and Pi Kappa Alpha the following year; and Sigma Phi Epsilon in 1953.

An Interfraternity Council appeared in 1948, and Delta Sigma Epsilon merged with Delta Zeta in 1956. A new sorority, Pi Beta Phi, appeared in 1961, as did another fraternity, Acacia. The pulse of campus life during the 60s also reflected the dynamism of a developing university as the Greek

community continued to thrive. Acacia disappeared, but two new fraternities emerged: Sigma Alpha Epsilon in 1965 and Sigma Nu three years later. In 1971, another sorority, Delta Gamma, appeared.

Greek social organizations for African-Americans appeared in 1975: two sororities, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., and one fraternity, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. In 1976-77, the arrival of African-American fraternities, Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi and Phi Beta Sigma, attested to both the continued vitality and growing diversity of campus Greek life.

Over the next two decades, Greek Life continued to grow at Southern Miss. Two



additional African-American sororities were added, Sigma Gamma Rho (1978) and Zeta Phi Beta (1984). Sigma Chi Fraternity (1981), Alpha Delta Pi Sorority (1985) and Delta Tau Delta Fraternity (1987) were established on campus. In 1993, the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) was founded to unify all historically African-American Greek-letter organizations. In the 1990s, Kappa Alpha Theta (1998) and Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity (1998) were established on campus. Greek Life continued to flourish, so much so, that a new sorority was sought to meet the growing Greek population, and in November of 2014, Alpha Chi Omega national sorority was recruited and established at Southern Miss.

## ○ GREEK HOUSING

In 1949, Alpha Tau Omega acquired the renovated college barn and turned it into the first fraternity house on campus. Five years later (1954), Phi Kappa Tau broke ground for a building, and a fraternity row began to take shape. In 1965, a fire destroyed the Kappa Sigma and Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity houses, and the replacement houses, along with the new Sigma Alpha Epsilon house, would establish fraternity row (where it still stands today) in 1968.

In 1963, Wilber Panhellenic Hall (residence hall facing Highway 49) would become home to Southern Miss' sorority women for more than 40 years. The Village, an \$18 million residential complex for sororities and upper-class female scholarship holders, opened in 2007.

## ○ STUDENT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Student Alumni Association is one of the largest student organizations on campus and has many fun activities that draw the interest of the entire student body. Established more than 25 years ago, and formerly known as The Legacy, the Student Alumni Association is the campus leader in promoting spirit and enthusiasm at Southern Miss. The group's focus is centered on the protection of the traditions and history of Southern Miss. A few of their signature events include painting the Eagle Walk, painting the Little Rock, the annual T-shirt burn and Founders' Week.



## ○ SECRET SOCIETIES

Sometime in the fall of 2005, Vice President for Student Affairs Joe Paul received a mysterious letter requesting that he look underneath a water fountain on the seventh floor of a building honoring someone with seven letters in his last name. He compliantly went to the proper location in the Johnson Science Tower, where he found a check designated for a "deserving student affected by Hurricane Katrina."

Equally mysterious was the appearance in November of a large decorative stone on the lawn of Danforth Chapel. The rock bore an emblem with a leaf surrounded by seven stars and the date 1877. Believing it to be a fraternity prank, Union and Programs Director Barbara Ross conducted a little detective work and discovered the existence of an organization calling itself The Gold Leaf. "A group of individuals," according to one of the society's letters, "has taken an oath to commit itself to the betterment of The University of Southern Mississippi."

Other individuals and groups on campus also began to receive correspondence from The Gold Leaf, often accompanied by a check, usually for \$777.77. Apparently, the significance of the number seven derived from the 227 students and 17 faculty members present at the school's opening on September 18, 1912. The date 1877 possibly reflected the origin of the Mississippi Teachers Association, which played such a crucial role in the institution's founding.

Another of the society's letters stated, "Our mission is being accomplished through the making of financial and other gifts to individuals associated with the University whom we believe bring honor to the University through their work and lives. Membership in The Gold Leaf is and will always remain anonymous so that the focus of the gift will be on the recipient."

A separate but apparently companion organization, The Society of 1910, also emerged. "As students past and present," said one of its statements, "we are driven by our overriding founding principle—to work in all things for the betterment of The University of Southern Mississippi."



Ross suggested that it would be fitting for the first named meeting room in the Thad Cochran Center to be The Gold Leaf Room, and on July 7, 2007 (07-07-07), she received a check (the first of seven totaling the \$25,000 required for the naming opportunity) designated, of course, for Room 227.

On the 100th anniversary of Founders' Day, March 30, 2010, the University dedicated a magnificent Centennial Gateway at the main entrance to the campus. That stately monument to the institution's first 100 years was made possible in part by The Gold Leaf Society's donation of \$17,777.77 toward its construction.



Later that year, fall commencement ceremonies included the unveiling of a portrait of the five original campus buildings, specially commissioned by the Society of 1910. Donated to the University, it remains on display in the Aubrey K. Lucas Administration Building.

In addition to the secret societies mentioned above, other secret societies continue to emerge, some of which include the Gilded Eagles and the Black Key Society.

### THE BLACKBIRDS

The Blackbirds were a clandestine group of students who appeared on campus some time in 1926. Their favorite pastime was defacing sidewalks, walls and especially the water tower with their own peculiar brand of graffiti. The group once targeted three elderly professors by scrawling "The Walk of the Dead" on the walkway leading from the dining hall. Underneath the saying, the names of the professor were written, and the message was signed, "The Blackbirds."

On one occasion, the Blackbirds decorated the front of College Hall with the brightly painted message, "The Last Rose of Summer," in reference to a not-so-young female instructor. At the time, faculty members were startled to find notes in the pockets of their sweaters bearing the signature of the Blackbirds.



# PROMINENT ALUMNI



## **NATALIE ALLEN '84**

After more than 25 years in the journalism industry, Natalie Allen has worked her way up a soaring ladder of success and is currently a news anchor at CNN International. Prior to this role, Allen appeared on "Forecast Earth," the Weather Channel's weekly program on climate change and was a news correspondent for NBC News, an MSNBC News anchor, and was co-anchor of "CNN Live Today," the network's weekday afternoon newscast. Allen was voted "Favorite Morning Personality" by the FL Today newspaper and won a regional Emmy Award and Edward R. Murrow Award for her reporting.



## **CHARLES ATWOOD '70**

Charles Atwood retired in December 2008 as vice chairman of the board of directors for Harrah's Entertainment Inc., now Caesars Entertainment Inc. Atwood joined Harrah's in 1979 and held numerous finance and development positions during his tenure. He was named chief financial officer in 2001, joined Harrah's board of directors in July 2005, and became vice chairman in 2006. Atwood is the lead trustee of the board of trustees for Equity Residential, a REIT listed on the New York Stock Exchange. He is also a member of the board of directors of Gala Coral Group, a London-based company.



## **BRUCE AUST '86**

Bruce Aust is executive vice president, Global Corporate Client Group at NASDAQ OMX. He oversees global business development and relationship management with the 3,700 companies listed on NASDAQ OMX Group's 16 listing markets. He also has responsibility for NASDAQ OMX's Corporate Services unit, which provides investor relations, corporate governance and visibility services to public and private companies worldwide. During his tenure, NASDAQ OMX has attracted some of the country's highest-profile IPOs, including Google, Groupon, Carlyle, Zynga and Facebook, as well as New York Stock Exchange company switches including Mattel, Vodafone, Dreamworks, Texas Instruments, Viacom and Wendy's. He is also the recipient of the Digital Leadership Award from Computers for Youth.



## **TORI BOWIE '12**

Tori Bowie set the bar for going gold on one of the world's biggest stages as she capped the most impressive performance by a United States track and field athlete at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, by winning a gold medal in the 4x100-meter relay. She also earned a silver medal in the women's 100-meter dash and a bronze medal in the 200-meter event. She became only the fifth U.S. woman to earn medals in the 100, 200 and 4x100 in one Olympics and is the first Southern Miss graduate to medal in Olympic competition. In 2017, she took gold in the 100-meter event at the IAAF World Championship which earned her the title of "The Fastest Woman in the World." As a Golden Eagle student-athlete, Bowie was a two-time NCAA long jump champion.



### RAYLAWNI BRANCH '94

Mississippi pioneer of the African-American civil rights movement, Lt. Col. Raylawni Gloria A. Branch is best known for her leading role in the peaceful integration of The University of Southern Mississippi in 1965. At age 24, while secretary for the Forrest County NAACP, Branch was recruited to integrate The University of Southern Mississippi. On September 6, 1965, she and 18-year-old Hattiesburg native Gwendolyn Elaine Armstrong became the first two African-American students at Southern Miss, where they attended classes accompanied by six bodyguards.



### PHIL BRYANT '77

Mississippi's 64th governor, Phil Bryant made history as the first Golden Eagle elected to lead the state of Mississippi. Prior to this role, Bryant served as Mississippi's lieutenant governor, state auditor and represented Rankin County in the House of Representatives. On December 8, 2011, the Southern Miss Alumni Association announced the newly created Phil Bryant Executive Leadership Scholarship, founded with an initial \$10,000 gift from the Association.



### JIMMY BUFFETT '69

Singer, songwriter and author Jimmy Buffett has recorded more than 30 records, most of which have gone gold, platinum or multiplatinum. His recording "Boats, Beaches, Bars & Ballads" is one of the biggest-selling boxsets in MCA Records history and was certified quadruple platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America. Buffett has written three No. 1 bestsellers and is one of only six authors in the history of the *New York Times* bestseller list to have reached No. 1 on both its fiction and nonfiction lists.



### JAMES RAY CARPENTER '50, '51

A prominent figure in the golf community, James Ray Carpenter became involved with the Professional Golf Association in 1969. He worked his way up the ladder of leadership positions in the Gulf States PGA and was elected to the National PGA Board of Directors in 1978. He was elected national president of the PGA in 1987-88, the only Mississippian to ever hold the prestigious position.



### GWENDOLYN ARMSTRONG-CHAMBERLAIN

On September 6, 1965, 18-year-old Gwendolyn Armstrong became one of The University of Southern Mississippi's first African-American students. In 1993, the University established the Branch-Armstrong Lecture Series and in 2013, the Armstrong-Branch Plaza was dedicated on the University's Hattiesburg campus. She was inducted into The University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Hall of Fame in 2016. Today, Armstrong-Chamberlain serves as CEO of Happy Hearts, a 501©(3) which provides a safe environment for abused and abandoned children.



### TENA CLARK '75

Tena Clark is chief executive officer and chief creative officer of DMI Music and Media Solutions, which creates nontraditional media in music technology and marketing for well-known corporate brands such as General Mills, AARP, Build-a-Bear Workshop, McDonalds and has composed the official theme song for NASA. Clark has written for film and television with credits that include *Hope Floats*, *My Best Friend's Wedding*, *Desperate Housewives* and *Where the Heart Is*. Her work also includes gold- and platinum-selling songs for many renowned artists, including Aretha Franklin, Patti LaBelle, Dionne Warwick and Sara Evans.



### JAMIE COLLINS '13

Jamie Collins is an outside linebacker for the New England Patriots with an impressive record and potential for NFL stardom. From Franklin County, Collins' 21 career sacks while playing for the Golden Eagles football team put him at the fifth best total in school history. The Patriots selected Collins with their first pick in the 2013 NFL Draft, the end overall pick in the second round. In 2014, Collins helped his team to a Super Bowl XLIX victory, with a team-high eight tackles during the game.



### CAT CORA '90

Cat Cora made television history on the Food Network's "Iron Chef America" as the first female Iron Chef. She is the author of multiple best-selling cookbooks and has developed a global barbecue concept for Macy's called CCQ. Cora is the president and founder of Chefs for Humanity, a group of culinary professionals working to fight hunger, provide food nutrition education and emergency food relief worldwide. In 2006, *Bon Appetit* magazine bestowed her with their Teacher of the Year Award. On July 15, 2012, Cora was inducted into the American Academy of Chefs (AAC) Hall of Fame and was the first female chef to ever receive this recognition by the American Culinary Federation.





### BRIAN DOZIER '09

A Fulton native, Brian Dozier garnered accolades on the field as a freshman All-American and helped the Southern Miss baseball team to an NCAA Region three years in a row. His senior year, Dozier led the team to the College World Series in 2009 and was ultimately drafted in the eighth round of the 2009 MLB Draft. Today, Dozier is one of the most recognizable members of the Minnesota Twins, and in 2014, he became only the sixth Twins player in history to hit 20 home runs and steal 20 bases in the same season.



### BRETT FAVRE

Upon his retirement after 17 years in the NFL, Brett Favre held virtually all the career passing marks in the league's record books. Among the records held by Favre are most career touchdowns (442) and passing yards (61,655). He was the NFL's first three-time most valuable player, and in 2007, he was selected as *Sports Illustrated's* Sportsman of the Year. As quarterback of the Green Bay Packers, he won Super Bowl XXXI in 1997 and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2016.



### EVELYN GANDY

Evelyn Gandy, who died in 2007, was the first woman in Mississippi to serve as a state representative, assistant attorney general, commissioner of public welfare, state treasurer, commissioner of insurance and lieutenant governor. Her many honors included the Margaret Brent Award from the American Bar Association, the Lindy Boggs Women in Public Service Award and the Exchange Club "Golden Deeds" Award.



### GARY GRUBBS '72

Movie and television actor Gary Grubbs has acted in such films as Oliver Stone's *JFK* and Clint Eastwood's *Honkytonk Man*. He has worked with such established stars as Kevin Costner, Meryl Streep, Tommy Lee Jones and Jack Nicholson. In recent years, Grubbs has devoted much of his time to writing, has successfully sold two pilot scripts to CBS-TV and starred in a recurring role on "Will and Grace."



### RAY GUY '78

Elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2014, Ray Guy was the first pure punter and Southern Miss player to receive the NFL's highest honor. Ray Guy played 14 seasons for the Oakland/Los Angeles Raiders. He earned a selection to the Pro Bowl seven times, was a three-time leading NFL punter, and played in 22 post-season games, including three wins in Super Bowls. Guy's talents have earned him several honors, including being a member of the NFL's 75th Anniversary All-Time Team.



### TED JACKSON '84

Ted Jackson, Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist for *The Times-Picayune*, has covered assignments ranging from swamp-dwelling Cajuns to Pope John Paul II's tour of the United States. He has produced an essay on life in the Desire Housing Project, a successful crack cocaine rehabilitation facility, and several stories on the city's homeless population. Jackson also photographed a comprehensive look at the collapse of the world's fisheries, a series that won the 1997 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service and another for breaking news for their coverage of Hurricane Katrina.



### NAN KELLEY '88

Hattiesburg native Nan Kelley has become a fixture on one of the most popular and longest running shows in all of entertainment, "The Grand Ole Opry." She is the television host of "Opry Live" and a regular personality on the Great American Country television network. The former Miss Mississippi also hosts GAC's weekly fan-voted "Top 20 Country Countdown."



### KATHLEEN KOCH

Kathleen Koch is a former CNN general assignment correspondent. Based in Washington, D.C., Koch specialized in aviation reporting and served as back-up correspondent at the Pentagon and the White House. In 2005 and 2006, Koch provided moving reports from the Gulf Coast during and in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Her reports were featured in "CNN Presents: Saving My Town – The Fight for Bay Saint Louis," a special that looked at the progress of Koch's hometown in Mississippi six months after Katrina.



### MARGARET LOESCH '68

From November 1998 until November 2001, Margaret Loesch served first as president and CEO of the Odyssey Network and, subsequently, became the founding president and CEO of Crown Media United States LLC. Prior to that, she was the founding president and key architect of Fox Children's Network (FOX Kids). One of the most successful and respected executives in the television industry and an Emmy Award-winning producer, Loesch was co-CEO of the Hatchery LLC, a kids and family entertainment company. Loesch is currently president and chief executive officer of The Hub, a Hasbro-Discovery Communications joint venture.



### MICHAEL H. MAGUSIAK '78

Mike Magusiak has retired as the president and chief executive officer of CEC Entertainment Inc., CEC Entertainment Inc. operates and franchises more than 500 Chuck E. Cheese's restaurants in 48 states and five foreign countries. Mike and the management team took the company public in 1989, and the company's common stock is currently traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "CEC."



### TOM "BONES" MALONE

Musician, arranger and producer Tom "Bones" Malone is best known for his work with the Blues Brothers, "Saturday Night Live," Frank Zappa, Gil Evans, The Band, and Blood, Sweat and Tears. In 1993, Malone was added to the CBS Orchestra on the "David Letterman Show," where he arranges music and plays trumpet, trombone, bass trombone, alto sax, tenor sax, baritone sax, piccolo and flute on the show.



### OSEOLA MCCARTY '98

Oseola McCarty, the humble washerwoman who became the University's most famous benefactor, drew global attention after it was announced in July 1995 that she would will \$150,000 of her life's savings to Southern Miss to provide scholarships for deserving students in need of financial assistance. She received scores of awards and other honors recognizing her unselfish spirit, and President Bill Clinton presented her with a Presidential Citizens Medal, the nation's second highest civilian award, during a special White House ceremony. She also won the United Nation's coveted Avicenna Medal for educational commitment.



### WHITNEY MILLER '10

Inspired by the hospitality of her great-grandmother and creativity of her mother, Whitney Miller's passion for the art of cooking began at an early age. At 22, she won the show "Masterchef," gaining the title of Fox's first U.S. Masterchef. Soon afterward, Whitney obtained her degree, with an emphasis in nutrition, from The University of Southern Mississippi. Whitney is the author of the cookbooks *Modern Hospitality: Simple Recipes with Southern Charm* (Rodale), with forward by Gordon Ramsey and *Whitney Miller's New Southern Table* (Thomas Nelson). She is a food writer of magazine articles for *Flavors* (Atlanta) and *Taste of Home*. Her recipes and/or book promotions have appeared in *People*, *Women's Health*, *Masterchef* and *Cooking Light*.



### STEVEN PALAZZO '94, '96

Congressman Steven M. Palazzo represents the fourth congressional district of Mississippi. He was sworn into office on January 5, 2011, and serves on the House Armed Services and Science, Space and Technology Committees. Born in Gulfport, Steven earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting from Southern Miss. Steven and his wife Lisa Belvin '94, whom he met during college, started a small business in 2001, giving him a unique perspective on what it means to create jobs and manage a budget. Over time, they have been able to grow their CPA firm into a successful agency that specializes in helping Americans living abroad with their income taxes.



### SALLY-ANN ROBERTS '74, '76

Sally-Ann Roberts co-anchors the highest rated local morning newscast in the nation, "Eyewitness Morning News" on WWL-TV in New Orleans. Additionally, Roberts hosts "Our Generation," a Saturday morning teen talk show that gives young people a platform for their thoughts and creativity. During her tenure at WWL-TV, Roberts has received first place awards in reporting excellence from several organizations and in 2000, received the Edward R. Murrow Award for reporting excellence.



### CHUCK SCARBOROUGH '69

Emmy Award-winning anchor and correspondent Chuck Scarborough has been with New York City's News Channel 4 since 1974. He is the co-anchor of the city's number one-rated local evening newscast. Among his awards are 24 Emmys and several awards from The Associated Press. Additionally, Scarborough has authored three novels, one of which became a CBS mini-series, and has also written articles for *New York*, *Boston* and *American Home* magazines.





### CHUCK SCIANNA '75

A native of Bay Saint Louis, Charles “Chuck” C. Scianna Jr. earned his bachelor’s degree from Southern Miss and a master’s degree from the University of Houston. Scianna credits his education at Southern Miss for much of his success as president of Sim-Tex, L.P., in Waller, Texas, one of the leading suppliers of API-certified oil country tubular goods. With a gift commitment of \$5 million to The University of Southern Mississippi Foundation, Chuck made an investment in the future of education by providing the gift that has named the College of Business building Scianna Hall.



### DAVID SHEFFIELD '72

Comedy writer and Hollywood screenwriter David Sheffield broke into the business as a writer for “Saturday Night Live,” writing mostly for cast members Eddie Murphy and Joe Piscopo. During his last year with SNL, he also served as one of the show’s producers. In 1983, Sheffield moved on to writing screenplays for Hollywood movies, including *Police Academy II*, *Boomerang* and *Coming to America*. He also worked on *The Nutty Professor*.



### ROBERT STEWART '64

Ret. Brig. Gen. Robert Stewart is a former NASA astronaut and retired Army brigadier general. Stewart has served in three space missions and has logged a total of 289 hours in space. The recipient of numerous medals, Stewart is presently employed as director of advanced programs for Nichols Research Corporation based in Colorado Springs, Colo.



### WALTER WASHINGTON '70

Walter Washington, a retired Alcorn State University president, was the first African-American to receive a doctorate in Mississippi. Prior to his death, he was considered a role model in Mississippi higher education and nationally in black higher education and was listed as one of the “100 Most Influential Black Americans” in *Ebony* magazine. With his 37 years of continuous service, Washington was among the longest-serving college presidents in Mississippi and in the nation.



### CLARENCE WEATHERSPOON '93

Clarence Weatherspoon enjoyed a 13-year NBA career, during which he played for the Houston Rockets, the Philadelphia 76ers, the Golden State Warriors, the Miami Heat, the Cleveland Cavaliers and the New York Knicks. A three-time Metro Conference Player of the Year at Southern Miss, Weatherspoon leads the University career lists in rebounds and blocks and is second in scoring.



### NEIL WILLIAMS '75

Neil Williams serves as chief financial officer and senior vice president of Intuit Inc., which produces financial and tax preparation products like Quicken, Quickbooks and Turbo Tax. Williams was previously the executive vice president and chief financial officer for Visa U.S.A. Inc., the leading payments company in the United States.



### SAMMY WINDER '83

Sammy Winder played in three Super Bowls and is a former All-Pro running back with the Denver Broncos. Additionally, Winder was the NCAA scoring champion as a Southern Miss running back in 1980 and still holds the third-highest career rushing total in school history. Currently, Winder is the owner of Winder Construction Company in Jackson.



### SHELDON WOLF '72

Sheldon Wolf is the founder and CEO of Spellex Corp. Following his graduation from Southern Miss, Wolf taught junior high school music for two years in Albany, Ga., before leaving to make his mark in the business world. After spending the next several years working in a variety of information technology positions, Wolf began to envision great potential for vertical market software spelling tools for industries that required specialized terminology. The vision for Spellex was born. Spellex products now have more than 1 million users in 42 countries and counts among its notable clients – Microsoft, IBM, the United Nations, the Supreme Court, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the American Medical Association, General Electric and the United States Senate.

## ○ TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. The University's motto is "Southern Miss to the Top!" It represents our desire for the best for the University's constituency, whether in the classroom, on the playing field or in the community.
2. The earliest nickname for the University's athletic teams was Tigers, but early teams were also referred to as Normalites.
3. On February 27, 1962, Gov. Ross Barnett signed the bill that made Mississippi Southern College The University of Southern Mississippi.
4. The institution's first name was Mississippi Normal College.
5. In September 1965, Southern Miss enrolled its first African-American students, Raylawni Branch and Gwendolyn Elaine Armstrong.
6. Golden Eagles was chosen over Raiders, War Lords, Timber Wolves and Southerners.
7. The Honor House was originally called the "Industrial Cottage" and was designed to provide a laboratory setting for girls to "learn practical home keeping in all its phases." Girls who resided there did all their own work and were compensated by a reduction in their school expenses.
8. Unemployed men of Hattiesburg constructed Carlisle-Faulkner Field in 1932. The field is named in honor of Louis Edward "L.E." Faulkner, chairman of Hattiesburg's Committee on Unemployment Relief, and Southern Miss alumnus Gene Carlisle.
9. The University was founded March 30, 1910.
10. In 1914, the school's yearbook made its debut as the *Neka Camon*, a Native American term meaning "The New Spirit."

## SCORING

**0-3 MAYBE YOU SHOULD HAVE GONE TO OLE MISS.**

**4-6 WHAT? ARE YOUR PARENTS MISSISSIPPI STATE ALUMNI?**

**7-10 YOU'RE A TRUE GOLDEN EAGLE!**



