



*Dr. John V. Marymont*

### New Leader's Vision

Dr. John V. Marymont has assumed the position as vice president for medical affairs and dean of the College of Medicine. Marymont brings to USA more than 20 years of broad-based executive experience in major academic medical centers — most recently serving as chair of the department of orthopedics at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport.

Marymont believes that USA is perfectly positioned to effect positive change in health care delivery, saying, “We hold the keys to the future of health care,” he said. “We must be innovative and collaborative with other academic health care institutions in adjusting to changes and fighting for what we need to address the predicted health care workforce shortage. We need adequate resources to ensure our physicians, nurses and allied health providers are well-trained. We have to be part of the solution.”

## The Best Teacher

Dr. J. Allan Tucker, Jr., the late medical school chair of pathology, was one of South's brightest faculty stars who left a legacy of outstanding leadership and love for his profession that is admired by all following in his footsteps.

Dr. Tucker, who spent 24 years with the pathology department, was equally devoted to his dual role as a physician and a teacher. His wife, Jean, recalls how he loved being a part of the USA family and how that affection was returned by his students.

“Dr. Tucker was an exceptional teacher and physician who had a remarkable impact on his students,” Dr. Samuel J. Strada, dean emeritus of the USA College of Medicine said. “He worked tirelessly to ensure he passed his knowledge and love of pathology on to students and residents.”

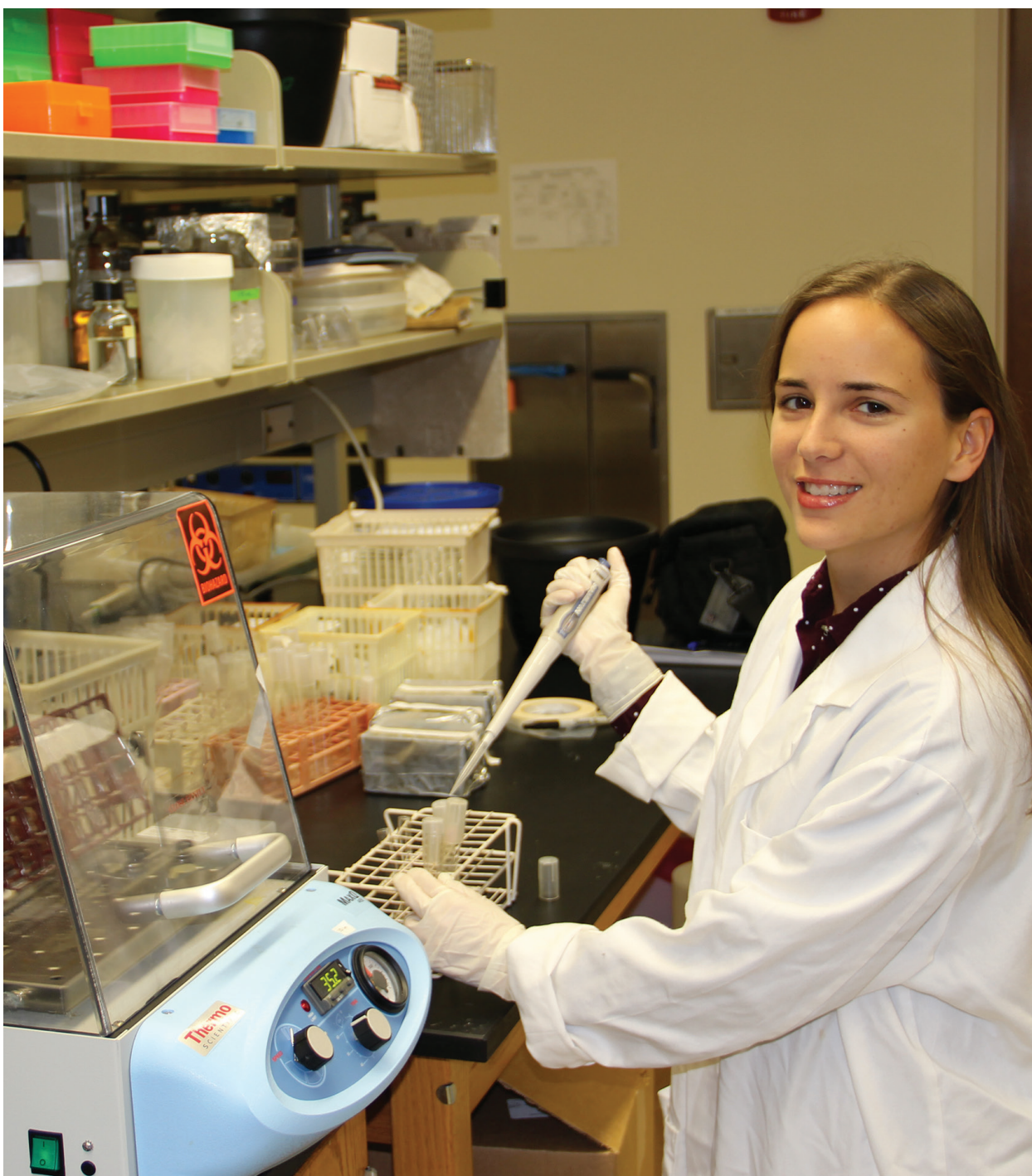
The Dr. J. Allan Tucker Endowed Fund for Faculty and Resident Development in Pathology was established to help future pathologists present their research on a national and global stage. The

fund extends Dr. Tucker's legacy of encouraging his residents to pursue such opportunities.

“This endowment will allow USA pathology residents to follow Dr. Tucker's footsteps in presenting their research on a greater platform,” Dr. John V. Marymont, vice president for medical affairs and dean of the USA College of Medicine said. “This opportunity to enrich the research enterprise among faculty and residents will ultimately enhance the quality of healthcare in our local community and the Gulf Coast region.

Dr. Tucker was recognized with honors by his students and colleagues on many occasions; these honors included Best Basic Science Professor, Best Senior Rotation, and the Faculty Recognition Award for best pathology housestaff teacher.

“It's very simple,” Jean said. “He loved what he did, he loved his students and residents, he really enjoyed being able to do what he did every day, and I think it showed.”



*Sarah Harvey, one of Dr. Spector's former research assistants, is currently enrolled in South's MSc in Environmental Toxicology program.*

# Boosting Student Research

Dr. Michael Spector, professor of biomedical sciences in the Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health, has dedicated much of his career to mentoring undergraduate research students — roughly 80 since he began his career at USA in 1988. His research is aimed at understanding how the bacterium *Salmonella* responds to environmental stressors. Research assistants in Spector's lab conduct experiments designed to discover what kills the bacteria and what makes it stronger. This important work has implications for the development of safer food processing and handling practices.

Knowing this type of lab work is crucial for developing scientists, Spector established the Emma Spector Greenfield Fund for Undergraduate Research in 2009 in memory of his mother. The fund provides support for research assistants, materials and equipment for the Department of Biomedical Sciences. Spector recently made a gift to endow the fund — guaranteeing this opportunity for USA students in perpetuity.

Speaking about the gift Spector said, "I wanted to provide a way to help students complete their research projects without having to wait for additional funding for the project to become available." Spector's gift is advancing the quality of a USA education and helping some of South's brightest biomedical sciences students achieve their personal aspirations.

Sarah Harvey, one of Dr. Spector's former research assistants, knows firsthand the impact this opportunity has had on her future and what it will mean for other students. Harvey, who came to South in 2012 from Ocean Springs, MS on a Presidential Scholarship, worked in Dr. Spector's lab last year before graduating in May. Harvey is grateful to South and Dr. Spector for providing her with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the lab saying, "In addition to being able to conduct research with Dr. Spector, he also helped me perfect many lab techniques and gain a better understanding of professional etiquette in the lab. I believe this knowledge is invaluable to my future in this field."

## EBSCO Supports Computing Students

Technology is changing the world we live in by the minute, and the need for a skilled, technology focused workforce is rapidly increasing. The USA School of Computing is ensuring that this need is met head-on by connecting South students with industry leaders from the moment they step on campus.

EBSCO Industries, Inc., a Birmingham, AL company, is a leader among the information services and digital media world. The company values investing in the future workforce of this industry as its gift of a scholarship to the USA School of Computing demonstrates.

"It is vital for us to have industry partners like EBSCO as we continue to recruit the top students to our program," Alec Yasinsac, dean of the school of computing said. "We want the top students to join our program, and scholarships, like the one EBSCO is providing, shows that they are investing in the future of the industry."

"Industry partners want to connect with the top students in this field," Yasinsac stated. "We have worked really hard to provide opportunities for our students to gain real world experience while they are in school and have a success rate where 100 percent are hired upon graduation."

The USA School of Computing is committed to preparing students who are ready and have the skills to keep the cyber world secure. Scholarships, like the one created by EBSCO, will have a lasting impact on the school, its students today, and the students who join the program in the future.



# Annual Events Take Off

USA friends and supporters are responding in record numbers to support USA's Children's & Women's Hospital (CWH) and the Mitchell Cancer Institute (MCI) through two annual events.



*The start of the 2016 Trick or Trot*

## Fishing for Better Screening



*2016 Salty Worm Brackish Classic and Delta Bash*

The fifth annual Salty Worm Brackish Classic and Delta Bash is expected to raise \$50,000 to support the Gaillard Pancreatic Cancer Research Endowment at the Mitchell Cancer Institute (MCI). The endowment and the event were established by the Gaillard family, who lost two brothers to the disease within a matter of months in 2011.

Pancreatic cancer is a lethal disease that is often diagnosed in its later stages. There is no screening test to catch it early. Out of a desire to build awareness of the disease within the community, the Gaillard family established the Salty Worm Brackish Classic and Delta Bash. The event honors the brothers' love of fishing through a one-of-a-kind fishing tournament in which freshwater anglers compete against salt water anglers on the same day.

"This event is helping to generate awareness about pancreatic cancer, which will surpass breast cancer this year to become the third-leading cause of cancer-related death. I believe the Salty Worm clearly brings this disease to public notice, while raising funds for research," said Dr. Ajay Singh, professor of oncologic sciences at MCI. Thanks to the Gaillard Family Research Endowment, MCI scientists and researchers are able to advance strategies and improve outcomes for patients who have pancreatic cancer.

## Ready, Set, Trick or Trot!



*Dr. Jason Richerson, Medical Director, CWH Evaluation Center*

More than 730 costumed runners participated in the fourth annual Trick or Trot at USA's Moulton Tower. The family-friendly evening, sponsored by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, features a 5K and Fun Run, trick-or-treating, pumpkin decorating and much more to raise funds to support the Evaluation Center at USA Children's & Women's Hospital (CWH). These four events have generated \$125,000 to date.

The Evaluation Center offers a broad spectrum of services — from the care of a Level-III emergency department to the treatment of things such as infections and colds. The center sees a high-volume of patients — typically 100 per day, rising to 200 per day during RSV and flu season. Last year, more than 39,000 patients were seen.

To serve even more of the community, Dr. Jason Richerson spearheaded the Trick or Trot fundraiser in 2013. The event is raising funds to renovate and to hopefully one day expand the center. "Any improvements we make to the center will help us provide better care for the region's kids," he says. "Sometimes we take it for granted, what we do, but then a parent comes back and says 'You saved my kid's life.' It's great to hear we've made a difference."



*Edward Dismukes, owner and president of Wilson Dismukes, high-fives Stephanie Lett, a clinic nurse in the department of medical oncology, at the caregiver station in the infusion suite named to honor the company for its generosity.*

## Local Lawn Mower Shop Gives Hope

Small businesses are at the core of our community, and the lasting relationships that have been built with their customers are one of the many reasons Wilson Dismukes, Inc. has been open since 1944. As a way to honor its relationship with the community, Wilson Dismukes, Inc. has made a gift to the Mitchell Cancer Institute (MCI).

“Our customers are the reason we are here; we support MCI because it allows us to make as broad an impact as possible,” third-generation owner and president, Edward Dismukes said. “We have seen first-hand what this facility does for and means to our employees and our customers, so that’s why we are here and why we give to MCI.”

By making a gift to the MCI Excellence Endowment, Wilson Dismukes, Inc. joins other community partners and donors whose gifts are

providing a perpetual resource for MCI to be able to address immediate needs and priorities. The fund helps to advance research, patient care, training and community outreach.

“Our desire is to provide hope and encouragement when patients see that even the local lawn mower shop is supporting and fighting with them,” Dismukes said. “We’ve got great customers and the lasting recognition from the naming will allow us to give hope to many patients for years to come.”

Wilson Dismukes, Inc. realizes how essential a facility like MCI is to our community and wants to lead by example by being the local lawn equipment shop doing its part for its customers and the community as a whole.

## Steelwood Spurs Jag Golfers

Steelwood County Club has a passion for giving back to their community, as they support numerous charitable organizations. This passion led to the organization wanting to invest in the education of local student athletes. They made their first ever gift to USA athletics to establish the Steelwood Country Club College Scholarship.

“South Alabama stands out in our community for everything they make available to our community,” said Terry Chapman, chairman of the Steelwood Collegiate Invitational Committee. “We wanted to do more for our community besides just being a golf course, and the college scholarship allows for us to make a greater impact.”

The scholarship places importance on ensuring student-athletes complete their degrees. The men’s golf team, one of 15 USA varsity sports teams, focuses as much, if not more, on academics as they do athletic achievement. The program has a reputation for academic success within the Sun Belt Conference and the Golf Coaches Association.

“The team as a whole is very strong academically,” Coach Alex Hamilton said. “Our main goal is to graduate our student-athletes, especially now that a college degree means so much to setting the right path for a successful future.”

In addition to the scholarship, the club recently hosted the Steelwood Collegiate Invitational, where the USA men’s golf team wrapped up its fall season with a fourth-place finish in the tournament. “This golf tournament has been in the works for the past two years, and we are already working to make it an annual event,” Chapman said.



*Peter Staalbo, a junior on the USA Men's Golf team*

*Lead On* is a publication featuring the impact of recent philanthropic gifts made to the university. If you have questions or comments, please contact the development office at (251) 414-8116 or [development@southalabama.edu](mailto:development@southalabama.edu).

