



UNIVERSITY
OF SOUTH
ALABAMA

Legacy SOCIETY



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Estate and Financial Planning News and Ideas

Insuring Their Commitment to USA

Dr. Marjorie Scaffa arrived at the University of South Alabama 20 years ago as the first chair of occupational therapy. Her commitment extends into the future. “Having started the program, this is sort of my academic child in a way, so I want to see it continue to do well,” Scaffa said. “My husband and I talked it over and thought, ‘What can we do that would leave a legacy and help ensure the program will be supported?’”

The answer came in the form of the **Dr. Marjorie E. Scaffa Professorship in Occupational Therapy Endowed Fund**. The gift will support an annual stipend to attract a new, outstanding faculty member or to recognize an existing faculty member who makes an exceptional contribution to the department and profession.

Scaffa and her husband, Dr. Blaise Chromiak, knew they wanted to give back to the University. Chromiak, a family practitioner, was employed by the University for about five years. But they were unsure of all the options until they talked to a representative in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations. That’s when they discovered they could make a deferred gift by investing money now that would pay dividends to the University later.

“I wasn’t aware of the option for a life insurance policy,” Scaffa said. “I was thinking we would have to make a large cash donation.” She was able to name the University as the owner and beneficiary of a life insurance policy allowing her to deduct the premiums for tax purposes and creating a major gift not feasible otherwise.

Scaffa, who remains chair of the department, came to USA from the University of Maryland in 1993. “At that time, there was really a built-up need for Occupational Therapists (OT) in this part of the state,” Scaffa said.

What began as an undergraduate program is now a master’s degree program with nearly 400 alumni. “Academics are fairly mobile, so we don’t often go to a place intending to stay there for our entire careers. And I didn’t come here with that expectation, but I just have thoroughly enjoyed working here and really love this University,” Scaffa said. “I’ve taught at other places for short periods of time. The caliber of students we



Pictured left to right, Dr. John Smith (Acting President), Jeanne Smith, Dr. Marjorie Scaffa and Dr. Blaise Chromiak.

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Balancing Personal Obligations

Many of our alumni and friends tell us they would like to give more, but are concerned about personal financial obligations. If you are facing the need to plan for retirement, care for an aging loved one, provide for education expenses or meet other economic challenges, how can your charitable interests be included in your plans?

- **Make a Bequest in Your Will or Other Estate Plan.** When you make or update a will, you may include a charitable bequest to the University of a specific dollar amount, a percentage of what is left after other bequests have been made or even a particular asset. You may be able to add a bequest to an existing will through a codicil, or amendment.
- **Make USA the Beneficiary of a Retirement Plan.** When you leave the balance of an IRA or 401(k) to your heirs, they must carefully manage the account to avoid losing its tax-deferred status and potentially triggering large income taxes and

possible penalties. You can direct all or a portion of what remains in your retirement accounts to your charitable interests and leave other more tax-favored assets to your heirs. (See Page 4 for more information).

- **Consider a Gift of Life Insurance.** You can name USA the owner and beneficiary of a life insurance policy. Your annual premiums are treated as charitable deduction. You might also consider a “second to die” option to lower your annual premiums. To assist donors with making a gift through life insurance, USA is currently offering matching premiums when the University is made owner and beneficiary of a new life insurance policy (some restrictions apply in order to be eligible for matching).

We are here to assist you as you consider your giving options. Please return the enclosed card for more information.

USA Names New President

Dr. Tony G. Waldrop has been named president of the University of South Alabama. An accomplished researcher, teacher and administrator in higher education for more than 30 years, Waldrop succeeds the late Gordon Moulton, who retired in 2013 after 15 years as president.

Waldrop has served since 2010 as provost and executive vice president at the University of Central Florida, with previous stints as vice chancellor for research and economic development at the University of North Carolina and vice chancellor for research at the University of Illinois. Waldrop has a bachelor’s degree in political science, a master’s in physical education and a Ph.D. in physiology, all from the University of North Carolina.

“The University of South Alabama delivers a quality education for students, serves the health needs of the central Gulf Coast and is an economic driver for Mobile and the surrounding regions. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to join USA at this exciting juncture,” said Waldrop. “The people of the University are unified in their energy and

dedication to providing an outstanding, affordable education. I am proud to become part of the team.”

“In Tony Waldrop, we believe we have found the absolute best person to lead the University

of South Alabama as we begin our next 50 years,” said Dr. Steve Furr, chairman of the USA Board of Trustees and vice-chair of USA’s Presidential Search Committee. “His leadership at some of the nation’s most prestigious, fastest-growing universities makes him eminently qualified to lead USA through the next exciting and dynamic chapter of our history.”



Dr. Tony G. Waldrop



Giving Through Retirement Plans

Many people already rely on retirement income from one or more sources, or they plan to do so in the future. These sources might include IRAs, an employer sponsored retirement plan, annuities with insurance companies and other investments.

From a tax planning standpoint it is wise to consider using a portion of these funds to make your charitable gifts and conserve other assets for current and future needs. Funds contributed to qualified retirement accounts, for example, are not taxed at the time of contribution, and they grow free of income tax. These funds are, however, fully taxable when withdrawn.

If you are over the age of 59½, you may wish to use amounts withdrawn from tax-favored retirement accounts to make charitable gifts. Such amounts are reportable as income when withdrawn, but if you use them to make charitable gifts, you are entitled to an income tax charitable deduction that can eliminate tax on the withdrawn funds. State tax, Social Security and other factors should be taken into account.

As always, discuss all matters that can affect your financial future with your professional advisors before changing your plans. We will be pleased to provide additional information about ways to include us in your plans.

Insuring Their Commitment to USA

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attract at South Alabama is really good in OT. Also, I like the size of this University. It's large enough to have a variety of things going on in terms of cultural and social activities, but it's small enough that people know each other.

"I am just so impressed with the changes in the 20 years since I've been here. This place has just blossomed into something really very remarkable. I was impressed when I first came here. But I'm so much more impressed now. It makes me feel good to come to work. It's just a pleasant place to be."

Scaffa and Chromiak hope that their gift encourages others to consider investing in the University.

What Planned Gifts Accomplish at USA

Here are ways our thoughtful alumni and friends have made a difference in so many lives with their planned gifts:

- An Endowment for Ovarian Cancer Research at the Mitchell Cancer Institute (MCI)
- An Endowment for Pancreatic Cancer Research at MCI
- Department Chairs in the College of Medicine
- Pediatric Oncology Research at the USA Children's and Women's Hospital
- Four annual full tuition scholarships for nursing students
- Scholarships in the Mitchell College of Business
- A student investment account to enhance the education of finance students
- Scholarships to the College of Medicine
- An Endowment for awards to the most outstanding professors
- Scholarships in the College of Engineering
- Scholarships in the College of Education
- Support for the University Library and the Biomedical Library

Your Gift Can Take Many Forms

You may have assets, such as IRAs, retirement plans, life insurance and bank and investment accounts, whose distribution is determined by a beneficiary designation form. Similar to your will and other estate plans, these forms may need to be updated periodically. As you review these forms and think about your plans for the future, you may want to consider the following:

- You can name the University as the beneficiary of all or a portion of your IRA or other retirement plan account.
- You can add USA as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy that is no longer needed for its original purpose.
- You can name USA as beneficiary of a savings or investment account through what is known as a “pay on death” provision.

As an added advantage, by using a beneficiary designation form, you avoid probate on that asset and you make a legacy gift to the University of South Alabama. The process is simple and there should be little or no cost involved. Please let us know if we can provide more information and assist you or your advisors in the charitable aspects of your plans.

The purpose of this publication is to provide general gift, estate, and financial planning information. It is not intended as legal, accounting or other professional advice. For assistance in planning charitable gifts with tax and other implications, the services of appropriate advisors should be obtained. Consult an attorney for advice if your plans require revision of a will or other legal document. Tax deductions vary based on applicable federal discount rates, which can change on a monthly basis. Some opportunities may not be available in all states. ©MMXIV RFSCO, Inc. All Rights Reserved. NNNPDF-14



A Legacy to USA

Have you ever thought about what your legacy will be? Leaving a legacy to USA can be easier than you think. One of the simplest ways to accomplish this goal is to leave a bequest in your will. The University can be named in your will in the same way that you make bequests to your family or other loved ones.

If you are considering a bequest to USA, here is some suggested wording to share with your attorney:

“I give and bequeath to the University of South Alabama, a non-profit corporation duly existing under the laws of the State of Alabama and located at Mobile, Alabama (Tax Identification #63-0477348) _____% of the remainder [or \$_____] of my estate, to be used as the Board of Trustees of the University of South Alabama may direct.”



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