The Andy and Carol Denny National Alumni Excellence in Teaching Award

Policies and Procedures

Each year the University of South Alabama Alumni Association acknowledges the central role of teaching at USA by recognizing faculty for their outstanding teaching contributions.

Award Name:	The Andy and Carol Denny National Alumni Excellence in Teaching Award
Award:	Recipient will be presented a cash award and plaque by the Alumni Association at its Annual Meeting in August/September 2026.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Successful nominees should have demonstrated extraordinary accomplishments in the following:

- Highly-creative and innovative teaching and teaching methods that are considered creative and/or innovative in the context of the individual's field
- Continual efforts to be an innovative and effective teacher
- Effective communication strategies and skills
- The ability to creatively stimulate students intellectual growth and personal development
- Enthusiasm for teaching
- Commitment to learning
- Respect for students
- Classroom environment characterized by student involvement, frequent feedback, respect, cooperation

ELIGIBILITY

The award is open to any full-time instructional faculty member with at least five years of teaching experience at the University of South Alabama. No college/school or departmental quotas shall exist regarding the number of nominations submitted. Recipients are not eligible for nomination for three consecutive years following the award. Thereafter, they are eligible.

NOMINATING PROCEDURES

A Faculty member may be nominated by any student organization officially recognized by the University, any full-time faculty member, or any staff member using the attached nomination form.

All nomination materials are Due June 30, 2026.

Department Chair and nominator are responsible for compiling materials below. Due June 30, 2026:

- Evaluative statement by nominee's chairperson. Please note - **No more than three letters** from students, alumni and/or peers about the nominee's teaching ability
- Comments culled from the nominee's student evaluations

Nominee responsible for compiling materials below. Due June 30, 2026.

(Committee will request this info from nominee)

- Copy of vita
- Statement of teaching philosophy (not more than 500 words)
- List of published teaching materials or of articles about teaching
- List of courses taught and enrollment for the past two years
- Awards and special recognition not included in vita

TIMELINE

Deadline for receipt of nomination form, letter of support and additional information from the nominee and nominee's department chair	June 30, 2026
Presentation of Award at USA Alumni Association Annual Meeting:	August/September 2026

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Each year the call for nominations will be announced via e-mail to faculty and all student organizations.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

A committee chaired by the Provost, Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and consisting of the following representatives will select the recipient:

- Vice President of the National Alumni Association
- President of the Student Government Association
- President of the Southerners
- Two faculty members designated by Provost, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

NOMINATION FOR THE ANDY AND CAROL DENNY NATIONAL ALUMNI EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Nomination form and all supporting materials must be received in the Office of Alumni Relations no later than **June 30, 2026.**

This award is to honor an outstanding member of the faculty whose achievements have brought distinction to the faculty member and the University of South Alabama. The honor is the highest faculty award given by the Alumni Association. It is based on the total assigned academic responsibilities of the faculty member, with special emphasis on the faculty member's relationship with students.

Print or type all information

Nominee's Name_____Title_____Dept._____

Nominee's Campus Address_____

Nominee's Office Phone_____Home Phone_____Email_____

Current Position_____College/School_____Dept_____

Nominated By_____Organization_____

Nominator's Mailing Address_____City _____State_____Zip____

Signature of Nominator_____Day Phone_____Email_____

A letter from the nominator including rational for the nomination and any information you want the committee to know, along with all supporting materials as requested, should be attached to the nomination form.

Eligibility

- To be eligible, the faculty member must hold a full-time faculty appointment and have a minimum of five years teaching experience at USA.
- Individuals who have received the award in the past three years are not eligible.

Past recipients:

2001: [tie] Dr. Dennis and Ms. Sharon Vest
2002: Professor Charles Gray
2003: Dr. Mary Ann Robinson
2004: Dr. Cindy Stanfield
2005: Dr. Brenda Beverly
2006: Dr. Scott Douglass
2007: Dr. Francis Donovan
2008: Dr. William Brad Davis
2009: Dr. David T. Allison
2010: Dr. Andrea M. Kent
2011: Dr. Peter J. Wood
2012: Dr. Zohair Husain
2013: Dr. Bret M. Webb
2014: Ms. Dawn McKinney
2015: Dr. Gregory Prescott
2016: Dr. Thomas G. Thomas
2017: Dr. Jaclyn Bunch
2018: Dr. Eric Steward
2019: Dr. Jacob Dasinger
2020: Dr. Christy West
2021: Dr. Stephanie Smallegan
2022: Ms. Sonna Farmer
2023: Dr. Vasiliy Prokhorov
2024: Mr. Jeff Holifield
2025: Dr. Jeffrey Landry

Send to: **THE AWARD COMMITTEE** USA National Alumni Association
MacQueen Alumni Center, 100 Alumni Drive, Mobile., AL 36688
(251)460-7084; Email: alumni@southalabama.edu