**University of Mobile**

**2021 Report to Annual Associational Meetings**

Over 60 years ago, Alabama Baptists saw the need for a Baptist college in South Alabama. The Book of Remembrance in the University of Mobile archives contains the names of 6,413 individuals and 186 businesses that pledged over $2 million to the original “Building the Campus Beautiful in the Deep South” campaign for Mobile College. On December 12, 1961, Alabama Gov. John Patterson signed the official charter, creating a college founded on the belief in Proverbs 9:10 that “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” Today, the University of Mobile is a proud testament to the vision and commitment of Alabama Baptists who continue to support “Higher Education for a Higher Purpose.” Our year-long Diamond Anniversary celebration culminates on **December 12, 2021**, when we invite Alabama Baptists to recognize **University of Mobile Day** and the thousands of graduates serving in churches and communities across the state and throughout the world. Please visit **umobile.edu/celebrate60** for more.

We are thankful for the Lord’s protection during the past year and celebrate the return to a full schedule of activities and events for the 2021-2022 academic year. Prospective students and families are invited to attend UM Days to visit campus, meet faculty and students, and learn about academic programs. Students who visit campus and enroll may earn a $2,000 Visit Day Scholarship. RSVP for a UM Day or schedule a private tour at **umobile.edu/visit**.

All are invited to the annual Scholarship Banquet on Oct. 26 featuring football legend Archie Manning. RSVP at **umobile.edu/banquet**. Homecoming will be held Oct. 1-3. The Alabama School of the Arts presents the annual Performing Arts Series, with Christmas Spectacular on Nov. 18-21 at Cottage Hill Baptist Church in Mobile. Over $500,000 in grants and donations was raised for the new J.L. Bedsole Strength and Performance Center that opened in August, replacing the 35-year-old weight training room in Pharr Gym. The new University of Mobile Store begins its second year offering unique UM-branded attire and merchandise. Visit online at **universityofmobilestore.com**.

The university continues to expand academic programs. A significant addition is the Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice in the new School of Nurse Anesthesia. This program was fully accredited in June and enrolled its first class this August. Among other academic developments:

* The first doctoral degrees in the university’s history were awarded in May 2021 – the Doctor of Nursing Practice and the Doctor of Musical Arts in vocal performance. Graduation speaker was UM alumna Sarah Thomas, the first full-time female in NFL history and the first female to officiate a Super Bowl.
* The new Center for Christian Calling, formerly the School of Christian Studies, is preparing students for ministry with an emphasis on practical skills. Adjunct instructors include over a dozen pastors, missionaries, association directors and ministry leaders from Baptist life.
* University of Mobile Online Programs offers 3 fully online programs offered in a flexible 8-week format for college students of all ages. Visit **umobile.edu/online** for more.
* The Master of Athletic Training program enrolled its first class in June 2021.
* The Master of Music in music education prepares graduates to continue toward doctoral programs in music education.

The university’s motto, “Know and Be Known,” describes an environment in which students are known by their professors, and professors know their calling goes beyond teaching subject matter in a particular discipline. Alabama Baptists can be proud of the faculty who teach at their university. You are invited to meet our faculty through Faculty Q&A stories on the website at **umobile.edu/stories**, where you may also subscribe to a weekly update. Please follow UM social media to stay up-to-date on campus news and development. The University of Mobile is YOUR Alabama Baptist university, and we are thankful for the Alabama Baptists who continue to support Christian higher education in our state.