

Moultons and USA Share Remarkable Journey



At left, Gordon Moulton, standing, works with colleague Warren Beatty on a massive forerunner to today's desktop computers in this photo from the early days of the University. USA had been open for classes only two years when Moulton joined the business faculty in 1966.

Below, Gordon and Geri Moulton in 1980.

Gordon Moulton

- President of the University of South Alabama, 1998-present
- Served as vice president for services and planning, founding dean of the School of Computer and Information Sciences and director of the Computer Center
- 46-year member of the faculty in business and computer sciences



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“It was June 1, 1966, and I had been offered a job as a teacher in the College of Business at the University of South Alabama,” President Gordon Moulton reminisced of his earliest memories of USA.

“We were cautiously excited about moving from Atlanta, although neither of us had ever been to Mobile. Geri and I packed our nicest clothes, an ice chest stocked with food, climbed into our blue, un-air-conditioned Volkswagen Beetle and drove as far as Spanish Fort in a single day!

“The following morning, we continued our journey. Stopping on the Causeway for fuel, I asked the attendant for directions to the University. He had never heard of it ... had no idea. This was a little unnerving to my young wife. We drove and drove, and finally, there it was: an entire university in two buildings.

“The University was considered to be at the far reaches of western Mobile, with lots of dirt roads, and a couple of moonshiners were still conducting business on campus property.”

Moulton recalls that founding President Dr. Fred Whiddon and the people he hired were convinced from the beginning that USA would be successful.

“Faculty and staff did multiple jobs. We did whatever it took.”

While USA was founded in 1963, classes didn't begin until the first building opened in 1964. “I came in June 1966, so I attended the graduation of the first class in 1967, and have been fortunate to attend every commencement since then — 46 years,” Moulton said.

“Graduation is still, even after 46 years, the most satisfying part of the job — the expressions on the faces of our graduates, many of whom are first-generation college students, and their families, and the role USA has played in giving these young people the opportunity to embrace a bigger world. That's what we're here to do.”