



## USC Upstate Mourns the Passing of its Founder G.B. Hodge, M.D.

Dr. G.B. Hodge, who led in founding what is now the University of South Carolina Upstate, passed away on February 23, 2009 at the age of 91.

Hodge, a Spartanburg native and retired surgeon, helped establish the university in 1967, when the community

which was ultimately responsible for founding the University, from its inception for more than 28 years. At the time of his death, Hodge served as chair emeritus of the Commission.

Hodge was a graduate of Wofford College (Phi Beta Kappa) and Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, and trained in surgery at Duke University, serving as chief resident and instructor in surgery.

He returned to Spartanburg in 1948 as the county's first board-certified surgeon, and practiced general, thoracic and cardiovascular surgery for more than 50 years, heading the original accreditation committee for Spartanburg General Hospital and later serving as Chief of Surgery at Mary Black Hospital. He published numerous scholarly articles on surgical cases and served over 60,000 patients.

Hodge is survived by his wife Katie Adams Hodge, a prominent volunteer in healthcare and the arts. Additionally, he is survived by his children: Susan Adams Hodge of Spartanburg; G. Byron Hodge, Jr., M.D. (Janet) of Lakeland, FL; and John Adams Hodge (Sharon) of Columbia, SC; four grandchildren: Thomas Hodge and Rachel Saul (Ryan) of Florida, and John Adams Hodge II and David James Hodge of Columbia; 3 great-grandchildren, 3 nieces and 6 nephews including Jamie Hodge (Laura), Mia Thompson (Jim), and Charlie Hodge (Ellen) of Spartanburg.

faced losing its nursing program at Spartanburg General Hospital. Hodge and other community leaders believed if a two-year campus were established, the healthcare industry would continue to thrive and more students would enroll.

For more than 41 years, Hodge took pride in watching the evolution of the University, often saying, "the University has provided for many students who would not have had the opportunity to get an education, and I think it's a fine institution."

He chaired the Spartanburg County Commission for Higher Education,

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# PARENT *news*

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ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF PARENTS AND ASSISTING WITH COLLEGE LIFE.

## USC Upstate Dedicates Its Health Education Complex

The University of South Carolina Upstate dedicated its new \$24 million Health Education Complex on March 6 as donors, alumni, and visitors toured the facility that will impact the health, wellness and economic development of the Upstate.

The Complex, the largest building on the 308-acre USC Upstate campus, is home to the Mary Black School of Nursing, School of Education, Enrollment Services, University Bookstore, and Wellness Center.

"The completion of the Health Education Complex is a cause for great celebration," said Dr. John C. Stockwell, chancellor of USC Upstate. "Increased classroom space, enhanced technology, and wellness features will benefit USC Upstate and the Upstate in far-reaching ways."

Situated on top of a hill and overlooking the beautiful Susan Jacobs Arboretum, this is the first major academic building to be built in the northern segment of the campus. Ground was broken for this award-winning, 150,000 square foot facility on August 26, 2005.

The expanded academic space will have a direct impact on the Upstate, allowing

the School of Education to provide more teachers while also enabling the Mary Black School of Nursing to double its output of nurses and add graduate programming in nursing.

The Wellness Center is a 60,000 square foot facility that features two basketball courts, two volleyball courts, two badminton courts, two racquetball/handball courts, a 1,900 square foot group fitness studio, a 1,250 square foot weight room, three-lane running track, spa, and an eight-lane recreational swimming pool.

"Having top-notch facilities like this is certainly an advantage when recruiting new students to the University,"

said Donette Stewart, assistant vice chancellor for enrollment services. "And having it located just across from the brand new freshman housing facility, Magnolia House, that will be completed this summer, is a double coup."

Laura Puckett-Boler, interim vice chancellor of student affairs and dean of students, also sees the important role this new facility is playing in the role of student affairs. "The Health Education Complex has become the new locale for student interaction. With its classrooms, labs, tiered lecture halls, study rooms, expanded bookstore, open gathering areas, coffee bar and deli, this is the new hub of activity for our students."



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## Instructional Technology Sessions Introduce Innovative Tools for Educators

Remember when a chalkboard was a common classroom fixture? If you were to search every room of the new Health Education Complex at the University of South Carolina Upstate, you would not find a single chalkboard. However, you would find numerous Promethean marker boards, which e-mail notes written on the boards directly to students, whose desks are no longer covered by pencils and paper, but instead by laptops with wireless Internet connections. Students access their syllabi and assignments online, where they participate in discussion groups with their peers across campus and all over the world. The classroom as you may remember it, with a chalkboard and a projector and a couple of no. 2 pencils, has experienced significant changes.

As technology constantly evolves, USC Upstate continues to offer learning opportunities to keep students, faculty, and staff up-to-date. In February, Cindy Jennings, director of instructional technology, hosted a fun and fast-paced SpeedGeeking session to introduce a number of resources for teaching and working more efficiently.

Demonstrations were primarily led by University faculty and staff who gained experience with specific tools through their use in the classroom. Discussions ranged from social networking to real-time document editors, which allow educators to collaborate with students in a variety of ways outside the classroom.

“If students have laptops in your classroom, chances are, they’re on Facebook,” Dr. George Labanick, professor of biology, said during his introduction to the social network as a course tool. Labanick said his University 101 Facebook group experience has been a positive one, as students are more comfortable with communicating via Facebook.

Kylie Prymus, of Converse College, introduced the idea of “virtual office hours,” through the use of instant messaging. “Virtual office hours are more casual, allowing students to speak up without feeling intimidated,” said Prymus.

Adam Strickland, client services technician in the division of information technology, discussed the benefits of the Windows Live workspace, which allows users to share and edit Microsoft Office documents. Dr. George Williams, assistant professor of English, presented the similar Google Docs resource. “No specific software is required for the use of this Web-based workspace, which allows users to save in multiple formats,” said Williams.

Dr. Reid Toth, assistant professor of criminal justice; Dr. Tom Davis, technology training specialist; and music instructor Vern Weygandt also led demonstrations during the SpeedGeeking session.

## USC Upstate Student-Athletes Shine in the Classroom

USC Upstate student-athletes are often recognized for their hard work on the playing fields and courts, and the athletic success they bring to the University. Spartan student-athletes have shown the same commitment to excellence in the classroom, and the latest report from the fall 2008 semester proves the Spartans are more than holding their own academically.

Upstate’s 246 student-athletes earned an average GPA of 2.960 in the fall semester, the second-highest semester GPA earned by the Spartans in the last five years. It trails only the fall 2006 average GPA of 2.98 as the highest single semester in the last five years. However, the 13 perfect 4.0 GPAs achieved by the Spartans eclipsed the nine achieved in the fall of 2006. The average female GPA last fall was 3.115 and the average male GPA was 2.808.

“I am very proud of our student-athletes and their accomplishments in the classroom during the fall semester,” said Mike Hall, director of athletics at Upstate. “Our coaches have done an excellent job recruiting academically prepared student-athletes, our faculty show tremendous interest in the academic and personal well-being so that our students succeed, and having Louise Ericson join us full-time coordinating our academic support efforts will only continue the strong tradition of academic excellence and pride at USC Upstate.”

Ericson has been on staff as the athletic academic coordinator on a part-time basis the last two years while serving as the director of the Center for Student Success at Upstate. She accepted the full-time position as associate athletic director for academics in the fall.

The following student-athletes earned perfect 4.0 GPAs in the fall semester of 2008: Gabor Boros (men’s basketball), Emily Campbell (softball), Brittany Daughtry (women’s soccer), Johanna Ebenhag (women’s golf), Timo Foerster (men’s soccer), Conrad Goeringer (men’s cross country/track), Megan Healy (volleyball), Kim Krohn (men’s soccer), Chelsea Cross (women’s track), Chris McCoy (men’s soccer), Mia Parkhurst (women’s cross country), Mary Sally Sang (women’s cross country/track) and Ignacio Velez (men’s tennis).



<b>MAY</b>	1	Bike to School Day
	1&4	Exams
	5	Graduation
	6	Maymester begins Housing closes for semester at 12pm
	7	Golden Shoe Awards Show
28	Maymester ends	
29	Maymester exams	

<b>JUNE</b>	1	Summer I semester begins
	4	Maymester grades available on VIP
	30	Summer I semester ends

<b>JULY</b>	1&2	Summer I exams
	4	Independence Day – No classes
	7	Summer II semester begins
	9	Summer I grades available on VIP

## Teaching Fellows Program Guarantees Highly Qualified, Committed Educators in South Carolina



The South Carolina Department of Education has reported a possible shortage of as many as 40,000 teachers over the next decade, but Dr. Angela Hinton, campus director of the University of South Carolina Upstate Teaching Fellows Program, is working with 50 outstanding education majors who are dedicated to lessening that number.

USC Upstate is one of eleven colleges and universities in South Carolina selected to host Teaching Fellows. These Fellows, chosen from a pool of highly qualified high school seniors, are committed to pursuing degrees in education and careers in South Carolina’s public schools. Administered by the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention & Advancement (CERRA), up to 200 students per year receive renewable \$6,000 scholarships.

“These fine students will return to the public schools of our state to prepare our citizens of tomorrow,” said Hinton. “They promise to be wonderful ambassadors to USC Upstate in the years to come.”

With its theme, “Preparing Teachers for a Diverse Society,”

the Teaching Fellows Program at USC Upstate seeks to provide a wide range of enrichment experiences for Fellows. The goal of the program is to nurture participants as a community of learners, to introduce them to possibilities for leadership in K-12 schools, and to retain Fellows within the institution as well as the profession.

Teaching Fellows at USC Upstate participate in a broad range of activities, including student organizations such as the Teaching Fellows Advisory Board, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) and Teachers Educating All Children (TEACH); attendance at professional conferences; travel and classroom experience in diverse settings; and assistance with Teacher Cadet activities in local high schools.

“Our university has a strong reputation for turning out the finest teachers in the state,” said Dr. Marsha Dowell, senior vice chancellor for academic affairs at USC Upstate. “With 85 percent of USC Upstate graduates choosing to remain in the Upstate to build their lives and careers, along with the recent completion of the innovative Health Education Complex on campus, the region will continue to benefit from the influx of additional teaching professionals.”

## Ben Hobbs On the Advanced Track

Most traditional students head off to college when they are about 18 years of age. However, one University of South Carolina Upstate business student in the George Dean Johnson, Jr. College of Business and Economics will have his college degree already under his belt at age 18.

Ben Hobbs, who is originally from Prince George, a town in British Columbia, Canada, looks like a typical college student, blending in with the other 5,000 students on campus. Hobbs, a senior, says that most students and professors don’t know about his young age. “I don’t tell anyone my age, and as long as I don’t act like a complete fool, nobody knows,” Ben says.

“It is very unusual for us to admit students ready for college full-time at such a young age. We have only had a few over the years,” says Donette Stewart, assistant vice chancellor for enrollment services.

A business major with a concentration in economics and finance, this Oakbrook Prep graduate prefers to study international economics, world markets and the “broad picture” business classes. Hobbs insists he is not a prodigy in the sense of getting straight A’s and breezing through classes, however.

“I already know what I want to do in life, and I’m very motivated to get there,” Hobbs says. He credits his early high school graduation, at age 15, and early college graduation, to taking the maximum credit hours allowed per semester and attendance at summer school. In fact, he has spent every summer since he turned 12 in summer school.

After graduation in May 2009, Hobbs says that he would like to get real world working experience, but fears that his age may deter some employers. Nevertheless, he says he needs the work experience because he isn’t through with school yet. His future plans include graduate school where he plans to obtain an MBA and a law degree concurrently.

