

Office of the Chancellor

From: Office of the Chancellor
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2019 9:30 AM
Subject: Message from Chancellor Jordan

Dear Campus Community –

I am proud to share with you an exciting initiative we are launching immediately. The Pickens-Salley House will soon receive a new campus building name that describes one of the important functions in the house – **The Alumni House**.

I'm glad to announce this decision just as our operations department begins their summer updating of building and directional signs across the university.

The decision to rename the house is based on the recommendation of a taskforce made up of faculty, staff and students who suggested that renaming the Pickens-Salley House would help demystify the house and help visitors locate the Alumni office. The historical marker will retain the name of the former owners of this house, but renaming the house on our maps and signs will clarify that this lovely historical home now houses a set of university offices. A significant number of visitors, neighbors, and students think that the Pickens-Salley house is the Chancellor's home and thus, they are reluctant to come in. The recommendation to explain that this is a public building, just like any other building on our campus, was readily embraced by our Aiken County Commission, who is charged with the master planning for the buildings on our campus.

Currently, I'm reviewing other recommendations, including how we more fully tell the story of the historic home, how we use the home to highlight USC Aiken achievements, and how we balance the fact that it is a historic building, while recognizing that the modern day use of the building continues to evolve. In the coming months, I will share additional recommendations to be implemented to help us make the Alumni House an institutional asset -- one that is open to all students, faculty, staff and guests, and a space that makes them feel welcome.

I wish to thank the members of the taskforce who have been working to enhance and update understanding of this historic resource on our campus.

When you are hosting prospective students and families, community members, alumni, and guests, I do hope you will encourage them to pop over and visit the Alumni House.

All the best,

Sandra Jordan
Chancellor