



A Legacy of Education in Beaufort County

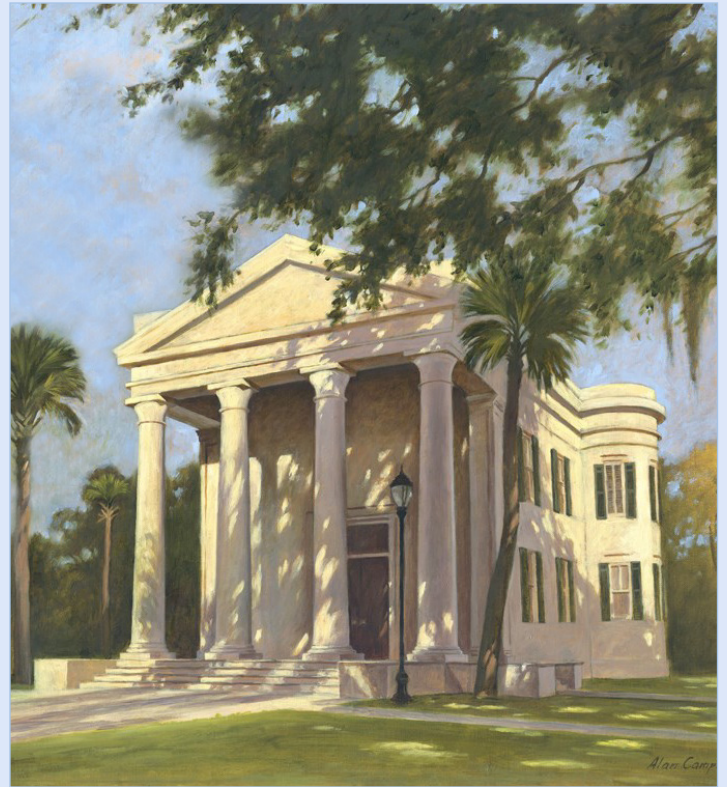
J. BRENT MORRIS

Associate Professor of History, University of South Carolina Beaufort

The founders of Beaufort College in 1795 were among the most powerful and influential citizens of the new state of South Carolina, itself occupying a place of prominence in the new nation. On land confiscated from Loyalists during the American Revolution, the original Trustees intended their new institution to serve the brightest minds of the region and offer the same degrees as any other college in America or Europe.

More than two centuries have proven the prescience of the founders of Beaufort College. Today, the University of South Carolina Beaufort embraces a Mission Statement of which the Founders would have undoubtedly approved:

The University of South Carolina Beaufort (USCB) responds to regional needs, draws upon regional strengths, and prepares graduates to contribute locally, nationally, and internationally with its mission of teaching, research, and service. USCB is a senior baccalaureate campus (1,400 to 3,000 students) of the state's largest public university. It offers degree programs in the arts, humanities, professions, and social and natural sciences delivered through on-site instruction and distance education, along with an active program of co-curricular activities and athletics. It serves a racially and culturally diverse student body, including military personnel, veterans and their dependents, and draws students from the South Carolina Lowcountry, from around the country, and from around the world. USCB enriches the quality of life for area residents of all ages through its academic programs, continuing education, artistic and cultural offerings, community outreach, collaborations with regional initiatives, and life-long learning opportunities (Approved June 7, 2013 by the South



Early photo of the Beaufort College Building.

Carolina Commission on Higher Education)

The passages excerpted here connect the hopes and dreams of Beaufort's educational past with its dynamic present and promise for the future. Following the description of the Chancellor's Medallion, essays from distinguished historians Lawrence S. Rowland and Walter B. Edgar trace the history of the university, the former in remarks offered on the occasion of the Re-dedication of the Beaufort College Building in 2000, and the latter in an address presented at USCB's Golden Jubilee Celebration in 2009. And lastly, J. Brent Morris—USCB's newest historian, successor to Dr. Rowland, and former student of Dr.

Edgar—presents suggestions for further reading and study in the history of the educational legacy of Beaufort, the Lowcountry, and South Carolina.

In 1803, founding Trustee of Beaufort College Stephen Elliott expressed his hope that the curriculum at the new school would occupy its students in studies, "all of them useful through life." He anticipated that they would be "sufficient to secure our College reputation and respect." More than two centuries later as the University of South Carolina Beaufort invests Al M. Panu as its second Chancellor, we can gather with the Trustees of Beaufort College, the officers and Board of Trustees of the University of South Carolina, USCB faculty and staff, and the worldwide Beaufort community to affirm the realization of Elliott's objectives and to bear them forward into a new era in the legacy of education in Beaufort County.