You will not find it etched on the cornerstone of an ivy-covered building, nor in a book on a library shelf. You'll have a hard time even pinpointing its origin. But THE USA WAY is very REAL. It describes how we conduct ourselves with INTEGRITY, DEDICATION and CLASS, simply because it is RIGHT TO DO SO. THE USA WAY is being PROUD, with a grateful heart and a big smile, when our students walk across the stage to receive their diplomas in a Mitchell Center filled with glistening eyes and pure happiness from fellow graduates, families, faculty and friends. THE USA WAY is being PASSIONATE about our role in TEACHING, RESEARCH and SERVICE — three elements of a single mission with a common theme: to be the best we can be in all that we do. THE USA WAY is being CAREGIVERS and HEALERS who give hope to patients, providing world-class care from exceptional talents through the region's only academic health system. Being the biggest has never been the goal. Instead, we choose the path of being better – better every day than we were the day before. THE USA WAY is being FIERCE, like a Jaguar on the prowl, giving each play and every game our very best effort while representing the ideals of sportsmanship, character and honor. THE USA WAY is being HUMBLE, knowing that ours is a tradition steeped in decades, not centuries. Each person who came before has helped blaze the trail that we travel today, allowing us to build on the success of the past as we embrace the future. THE USA WAY is being FISCALLY PRUDENT, not wasting what we have been given. A university built on a solid foundation is like the wise man's house built on rock. THE USA WAY is about discovering the SERVANT LEADER in each of us. Sometimes we are called to LEAD. Other times, we are meant to SERVE. No matter which, THE USA WAY is the NORTH STAR that we choose to follow. Finally, THE USA WAY is being a member of Jag Nation, throwing our J's with CONFIDENCE and PRIDE for all to see. Our destiny was not predetermined. Achieving it will never be easy. But from our very first days, the USA Way has led us to be AMBITIOUS, DETERMINED and BOLD, moving onward and upward, as the FLAGSHIP OF THE GULF COAST. Go Tags!