With two historic restoration projects, two renovations and one new construction project, The University of Southern Mississippi’s Gulf Park campus in Long Beach has been revitalized after Hurricane Katrina heavily damaged the university’s beachfront campus in August 2005.

“For more than seven years following Hurricane Katrina, we have worked towards fully returning to the Gulf Park campus,” said Dr. Frances Lucas, vice president and campus executive officer at Southern Miss Gulf Coast. “With the new construction and renovation of our science and nursing buildings, plus Lloyd Hall, our students will be educated in state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratories designed to better assist them in their future careers.”

The new Science Building is a $10 million project featuring nine teaching laboratories, research space, approximately 20 faculty and administrative offices and an 80-seat instructional classroom. Located in the northwest section of the Gulf Park campus, the three-story Science Building, as well as the renovation of the Nursing Building, continues the original Mission Style architecture of the campus.

The $1.5 million Nursing Building renovation features two laboratories – one for basic skills and the other for advanced skills, which are central elements to the academic program. The 10,000-square-foot building provides both student learning and study areas. Faculty offices and specific areas for faculty and student interaction, both private and public, have been designed to foster a community-oriented environment.

Hardy Hall, a $10 million renovation and historic restoration project, was originally built in 1921. This building serves as a campus landmark, particularly for alumnae of the former Gulf Park College for Women. The three-story building houses the bookstore, dining services, administrative offices and the College of Education and Psychology.

Lloyd Hall is a $2.4 million historic restoration project and another longtime structure on the Gulf Park campus. Lloyd Hall houses ten classrooms. The renovation project for Elizabeth Hall, which will house the College of Arts and Letters, is a $2 million project scheduled for completion in late spring 2013.

All five building projects broke ground in 2011. Each groundbreaking ceremony featured a new campus tradition where faculty, staff and students, representing the offices, departments and classrooms to be housed in the building, decorated shovels used to break the ground for their designated building.

While Southern Miss Gulf Coast works to complete its return to the Gulf Park campus in Long Beach, enrollment continues to grow beyond the pre-Katrina numbers. For the fall 2012 semester, 3,044 students attended Southern Miss Gulf Coast. The Gulf Park campus, the second of a dual-campus system at the university, is non-residential and serves the six counties of south Mississippi.