

UPDATE: Here we are on January 6, 2012. usmnews.net will soon be six years old. Its readership continues to expand. As of today, the number of hits is approaching 6.3 million -- an increase of 1.9 million hits in slightly less than a year. usmnews.net would like to extend its thanks to its reporters, contributors, and those who have provided information or suggestions for reports. usmnews.net is looking forward to expanding its readership and continuing to provide a service to the community.

31st & Pearl

More than 4 Million Served

The tally on the front page of usmnews.net says more than 4,390,000 hits. That's right, more than 4 million served. On March 1, 2010, usmnews.net was reporting more than 3,003,000 hits. In barely ten months, the count has increased by more than a 1,387,000 hits.

Usmnews.net's growing number of regular readers learned even more about the shenanigans of USM president Martha Saunders. The ill-advised decision to lease an airplane during one of the worst financial crises in university history is a story that continues to hound the Saunders administration. Now, we are learning more about her lack of fiscal restraint when it comes to administrative hiring and the condition of sports at "Southern Miss", including ill-advised pay raises for her football coach when faculty and programs are being terminated and tuition is being raised. The fact that "Southern Miss" has fallen back into the fourth tier is irrelevant. Martha Saunders is going to "[ride all the rides](#)" regardless of the costs to the University, its faculty and its students.

USMNEWS.net will be five years old in just a few weeks. That means the 4 million mark was met in less than that time. That's a remarkable feat, and it is due largely to the public's interest in how its public servants behave on a day-to-day basis. During the past five years we have learned some unsettling things about administrators at USM. There is little doubt that the news and editorials on all things USM that have been posted here have made those outside of Hattiesburg think twice about the way things are done in their own backyards. In that regard, this site is much bigger than any one institution, or even any one state. And, it will only get bigger. Five million is just around the corner.

31st & Pearl is a series housed at usmnews.net that features commentary on aspects of life in the CoB from a variety of columnists.